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Welcome to Memphis! Home of the Blues

Located in the southwest corner of Tennessee, alongside the Mississippi river, Memphis serves as the Rock, Blues, and Barbecue capital of the world. With attractions to satisfy those looking for family fun or those looking for some wild nightlife, Memphis fuses culture and fun into one of the most exciting and beautiful cities in the nation! There is no shortage of reasons to visit this great city, but the following are just a few excuses to visit the Home of the Blues:

1. Beale Street

If you want to take in the Memphis nightlife, Beale Street is the place to be. Lined with clubs, bars, and Barbecue pits, Beale Street continues a tradition that dates back all the way to when W.C. Handy wrote the first blues song there in 1909. For good food, good fun, and good music, Beale Street is definitely your destination.

2. Memphis Zoo

For a little family fun, the Memphis Zoo is where you need to go. The zoo boasts more than 4,000 animals for visitors to enjoy! The zoo is fully wheelchair accessible and wheelchairs may be rented for \$6 per manual wheelchair and \$18 per electric wheelchair.

3. Memphis Grizzlies Basketball

If you have a sports fan in your group, consider taking in a Memphis Grizzlies Basketball game. This NBA team has

been electrifying crowds in their downtown arena, the FedExForum since its christening back in 2002. The FedExForum is totally wheelchair accessible, including: the Grand Lobby, Box Office, Restaurants, Concessions, Team Store, Restrooms, and all seating areas including both Suite levels and the Club Box level.

4. Graceland

No trip to Memphis would be complete without a visit to see the King's castle. This fourteen-acre estate has been attracting Elvis fans for over 20 years. Graceland's gift shops, visitor facilities, restaurants, and museums are all wheelchair accessible, and the Mansion tour is wheelchair

accessible, with the exception of two rooms in the basement.

5. Casino-Tunica

For 24-hour casino action, Bally's Casino-Tunica has all you'll ever need. For the best slots, table games, and tournaments, try your luck at this favorite hotspot about 20 minutes outside of Memphis.



New Memphis franchisee, Justin McBride, and his service dog, Striker. The new location will rent accessible vans to the greater Memphis, TN area.

No trip is successful without safe and reliable transportation. If you are traveling

with a wheelchair or scooter user or are a wheelchair or scooter user yourself, rent a wheelchair accessible van from Wheelchair Getaways of Memphis! Automatic ramps and lifts make van rentals the most convenient source of transportation, and, with daily, weekly, and long term rentals, you can stay in Memphis as long as you want! Call 1-866-762-1656 for wheelchair accessible van rentals in Memphis, or visit Wheelchair Getaways of Memphis' website at www.wheelchairgetaways.com.



Happy New Year from Wheelchair Getaways!



Vocational Rehabilitation Process Flow Chart

Receive Client's Application



Conduct Assessment for Determining Eligibility



Determine Eligibility



Conduct Comprehensive Assessment



Develop Program of Services



Provide Services



Job Placement and Placement Support

Educating the Consumer - Becoming a VR Client

According to the National Health Interview Survey, only 37% of people with disabilities are employed, compared to 79% of able-bodied individuals. Two federally funded studies found numerous contributing factors associated with the high unemployment rate among people with disabilities, including: lack of transportation, inadequate training, and unavailability of appropriate jobs. Several government entities exist to try and remove employment barriers for the disabled, but perhaps the most comprehensive program for disabled persons seeking employment is Vocational Rehabilitation (VR).

VR is a federal and state funded program, whose sole purpose is to help people with disabilities gain and maintain employment. The first step in becoming a VR client is to fill out an application. Once a VR counselor has received the application they can then move on to assessing a client to determine whether or not the client is eligible to receive VR services. In order to receive vocational rehabilitation services, a client must have a disability significant enough to impede employment and those with the most significant disabilities are served first. This portion of the rehabilitation process usually moves fairly quickly, but some states have waiting lists to receive VR services.

Once eligibility has been determined, the counselor then conducts a comprehensive assessment to determine what types of services will be necessary to get the client back to work. Assessment could include medical examination, educational tests, or technical evaluation. After a client has been fully assessed, the counselor and the client agree to an Individualized Plan for Employment (IPE). The IPE provides a step-by-step outline of what services will be provided and exactly what the client's goals are.

After the IPE has been developed, VR services can be rendered. While VR provides innumerable services, those services can vary greatly from state to state.

Services may include: counseling, physical and mental restoration services, job training, personal assistance, interpreter and note taking services, college tuition, rehabilitation technology, and even post employment services. In many states, VR also provides transportation services, which could be in the form of bus passes, vehicle modification, and even accessible van rental*. Again, not every VR office will provide the same services, so clients should ask counselors what types of services are available and make counselors aware of resources in their communities. In order for VR to pay for a service, it must be part of the client's IPE and must be directly related to the client's employment goals.

Once services have been rendered, a client then receives support while he or she goes through the job placement process. After a client has been rehabilitated, the counselor decides when and if the case is closed. Depending on the client's specific needs, he or she may need post employment services. An example of a post employment service would be maintenance on a vehicle that VR has modified for the client.

While VR counselors strive to help clients reach their employment goals, occasionally a client may feel he or she is not being provided with services necessary to fulfill the objectives outlined in his or her IPE. If a client truly feels that VR is unjustly denying services to them, there is an appeals process in place. However, most conflicts can and should be resolved between a client and his or her counselor.

**Wheelchair Getaways is a vendor of VR in many states and provides VR clients with accessible van rentals for a variety of reasons, including: student transportation, interim transportation while VR is modifying a client's vehicle, and transportation to and from medical appointments. If you would like to find out if you are eligible for VR services, Wheelchair Getaways can help provide you with information on how to contact your local VR office. Please call the Wheelchair Getaways corporate office at 1-800-536-5518.*



Client is Rehabilitated; Close Case



Provide Post Employment Services (if needed)

Plan Now, Play Later
by: Debbie Fogle

Planning is an important part of the decision to travel. Most of us are comfortable traveling around the familiarity of our own communities, but when the desire or need to travel out of the area arises we are often intimidated by the unknown. It can be challenging trying to foresee and circumvent issues that arise from accessibility, but with the number of resources now available on the internet the task has gotten a whole lot easier.

There are several sites that have information about accessible travel and one of the most comprehensive is Access-Able Travel Source (www.access-able.com). Access-Able is loaded with information about accommodations, attractions, adventures, resources and transportation (including a complete list of Wheelchair Getaways locations) along with an accessible cruise



ship database and an extensive list of travel tips. Gimp on the Go (www.gimponthego.com) is a growing site that features travel reviews, tips and valuable resources for America's most popular tourist destinations. Emerging Horizons (www.emerging-horizons.com) is a reliable source that publishes a consumer-oriented magazine about accessible

travel. In addition to tons of access information they are also a good resource for news, exciting destinations and travel tips.

Many cities, communities and even states have harnessed the Internet to provide valuable information in the way of access guides. Several west coast cities have online guides including: San Diego, Los Angeles, Catalina

Island and Northern California. Some of the east coast guides include: Florida, Atlanta, Cape Cod, Washington DC and New York City. There are even three states that can boast having access guides: New Mexico, Virginia and North Carolina. Many pop

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CORPORATE	(800) 536-5518	Ft. Wayne	(800) 398-5165	NORTH DAKOTA: (Eastern)	(888) 256-5807
ALABAMA:		IOWA:	(800) 781-0663	OHIO:	(800) 398-5165
Birmingham	(800) 554-6893	KANSAS:	(800) 781-0663	OKLAHOMA:	(866) 846-8029
Mobile	(877) 416-0175	KENTUCKY:	(800) 458-1115	OREGON:	(800) 351-8267
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DELAWARE:	(800) 221-6501	MONTANA:	(800) 630-8267	Dallas, Ft. Worth	(877) 688-4695
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				Cheyenne	

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ular attractions have followed suit and now offer online access guides. A couple of examples are the Smithsonian Institute, which has compiled access information for its 16 museums and public facilities, and Disney, which offers online guides for all of its theme parks.

Another good way to plan a vacation is to let someone else do the work for you. There are actually travel agents that specialize in arranging travel for people with special needs. They offer invaluable information gathered first-hand and through clients about all aspects of accessible travel. They

can recommend destinations and guide you through all of the steps necessary to get you there. While many people feel that the planning and research itself is an integral part of the experience, there are others that find comfort in knowing that they are not 'going it alone' when making travel arrangements.

Travel agents can help ensure that your trip is

a seamless one by arranging for transportation, accommodations and in many instances accessible tours and adventures.

A little creativity is often necessary when planning and researching destinations. Utilizing local

resources is often vital to obtain accurate information. Almost every community in the country has an Independent Living Center (complete listing at www.ilru.org) equipped with intimate knowledge about access in their respective communities. Local convention and visitor's bureau's can also be a good

resource and should not be overlooked.

Travel can now be a part of anyone's life, so get out there and do it.

Debbie Fogle is a staff writer for Access-Able and enjoys researching and writing about travel. For more information on accessible travel, visit www.access-able.com.



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