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UNI-ONE

Hands-Free Personal Mobility

Honda Robotics is developing the UNI-ONE, a hands-free personal mobility device that expands the potential and joy of various people. There are two key features of UNI-ONE. First, UNI-ONE allows the user to maintain an eye level that is close to that of standing people. UNI-ONE takes a “low position” while the user is getting on, then shifts to a “high position” once moving. UNI-ONE features two drive wheels and an advanced control technology to ensure stable movement and prevent tipping over by automatically shifting to the “low position” when a possible fall is predicted. The second key feature is that UNI-ONE is steered by shifting body weight. When in the “high position,” the user can move in all directions by shifting their body weight, allowing the user to use their hands freely while riding UNI-ONE. When in the “low position,” the user can steer UNI-ONE with a joystick.

Honda Robotics pursued a design that would fulfill two conflicting challenges, compact size and high stability. They completed research and testing with actual wheelchair users and caregivers to determine seat height and other specifications and to prevent tipping over in various situations, including outdoor settings.

Since October 2022, Honda Robotics has been conducting demonstration testing at Suzuka Circuit Park where individuals can experience UNI-ONE in person and provide Honda Robotics with valuable data and feedback. Honda Robotics also collaborates with Japan Sun Industries’ support facility for people with disabilities in Oita Prefecture and Honda Taiyo, where people with disabilities play an active role in the development of the UNI-ONE.

Source: https://global.honda/en/tech/Hands-free_seated_personal_mobility_device_UNI-ONE/



World Braille Day is celebrated every year on January 4th, Louis Braille's birthday. Louis was born in 1809 in France, and became blind after a childhood accident. He quickly mastered his new way of living, and at only 15 years old, created a reading and writing system based on Charles Barbier's night writing system. Today, we know Louis' system as braille, and as it has been adjusted over time, it is now easier to read and used worldwide!

Braille is often a preferred method for reading certain documents, and braille literacy is an important factor in equal opportunities for people with blindness. That's why you'll find braille on objects you use every day — signs, ATMs, elevators, calculators, and more. Every individual will indeed have their accessible format preference, but braille seems to win over others in many cases. It's all thanks to Louis Braille and the schools that adopted and taught his reading and writing system.

You can help raise awareness by offering your documents in **accessible formats** like braille! Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (amended in 1998 and codified in 29 U.S.C. 794d) is a federal law requiring all electronic and information technology (EIT) used by the government and organizations receiving federal funding to be accessible to people with disabilities. Technology that's inaccessible hinders a person's ability to locate and make use of information quickly and conveniently. Section 508 was put into place to break down the barriers in existing information technology, encourage the development of new technologies, and open the door to new opportunities for people with disabilities. For more information on accessible documents, visit <https://brailleworks.com/accessible-documents/>.

Source: <https://brailleworks.com/what-is-world-braille-day/>

Rare Disease Day is the globally coordinated movement on rare diseases, working towards equity in social opportunity, healthcare, and access to diagnosis and therapies for people living with a rare disease. Created in 2008, Rare Disease Day plays a critical part in building an international rare disease community that is multi-disease, global, and diverse – but united in purpose.

Rare Disease Day is observed every year on 28 February (or 29 in leap years) – the rarest day of the year. EURORDIS along with 65+ national alliance patient organization partners coordinate Rare Disease Day, which provides an energy and focal point that enables rare diseases advocacy work to progress on the local, national and international levels.

Though Rare Disease Day is patient-led, everyone, including individuals, families, caregivers, healthcare professionals, researchers, clinicians, policy makers, industry representatives and the



general public, can participate in raising awareness and taking action today for this vulnerable population who require immediate and urgent attention.

By organizing events, sharing your colors via social media, illuminating buildings, monuments and homes; by sharing experiences online and with friends; by calling on policy makers and shining the light on people living with a rare disease; collectively we aim to change and improve lives of the 300 million people worldwide.

Visit the website www.rarediseaseday.org which helps patient organizations, patient advocates, and others interested in campaigning for equity for rare diseases to identify resources and promote campaign events.

Source: <https://www.rarediseaseday.org/what-is-rare-disease-day/>



March



Brain Injury Awareness Month

Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) Partners Day — February 29, 2024, 1:00-4:00 PM ET

In observance of Brain Injury Awareness Month coming up in March, the Administration for Community Living (ACL) will host a virtual Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) Partners Day on February 29, 2024, 12:00 – 4:00 PM ET. Each year (previously called TBI Stakeholder Day) ACL convenes interested parties to discuss important issues around TBI services, supports, and systems and to learn from other partners, brain injury survivors, family members, support networks, and state and federal representatives.

This year, there will be sessions on criminal justice, behavioral health, and aging with a TBI. State and federal representatives and people with lived experience/expertise of brain injury will be included in the sessions. Participants will be given the opportunity to ask questions during each session. There is no cost to register.

Contact the TBI Technical Assistance and Resource Center at tbitarc@hsri.org regarding accommodation requests or questions about the event.

Brain Injury Awareness Day Capitol Hill Rally — March 5-6, 2024

Join the Brain Injury Association of America, NASHIA, USBIA and other members of the brain injury community for Brain Injury Awareness Day on Capitol Hill on March 5-6, 2024 and help us win reauthorization for the Traumatic Brain Injury Act.

The Traumatic Brain Injury Act provides much-needed funding to improve rehabilitation and community support for people with brain injury, but it is set to expire in 2024. This funding has been shown to improve the overall outcomes for people with brain injury, which is why we need all the help we can get!

There will be plenty of other activities to participate in if you are unable to attend the rally. Sign up at <https://www.biausa.org/awarenessday2024> to receive more information about available activities.

Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month

Artists' Gala — March 23, 2024

The Wyoming Governor's Council on Developmental Disabilities invites you to attend an Artists' Gala at the Metropolitan Downtown Cheyenne on March 23, 2024, from 5:00-8:00pm in celebration of Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month. For more information visit www.wgcdd.wyo.gov.

Luncheon — March 2024

The Wyoming Governor's Council on Developmental Disabilities will hold a Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month Luncheon in March 2024. Details will be announced soon! Visit www.wgcdd.wyo.gov for information about the location and date of the luncheon.

NEED SOME EXTRA SUPPORT ?

FREE Mental Health Sessions Wyoming Department of Agriculture

The Wyoming Department of Agriculture is providing vouchers for six free Mental Health Sessions for those working in Agriculture/Rodeo/Farming communities. For more information call (307) 777-8788.

This work is supported by the Wyoming Department of Agriculture, Grant No. 2021-70035-35378 from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, National Institute of Food & Agriculture.



Keith A. Miller Award

The *Wyoming Institute for Disabilities* (WIND), located in the University of Wyoming College of Health Sciences, recently recognized Donna Sheen as the 2023 Keith A. Miller Award winner.

Sheen, of Laramie, is founder and director of the Wyoming Children's Law Center. In this role, she has dedicated herself to protecting children and vulnerable adults through legal services, holistic conflict resolution and policy advocacy.

"WIND extends our congratulations to Donna and thanks her for being a force fighting for people with disabilities," says Michelle Hilaire, WIND interim executive director.

The annual award is dedicated to WIND's founder, Keith Miller, to honor those who have made a difference in and for the disability community. Miller built his career upon the philosophy that everyone should help communities become more welcoming and supportive of people with disabilities.

For more information about the Keith A. Miller Award and for past recipients, visit www.uwyo.edu/wind/award/about.html.

Source: <https://www.uwyo.edu/news/2023/12/uws-wind-honors-sheen-with-keith-a-miller-award.html>

WHAT'S NEW

.....Therapeutic Equipment Lending Library

A lending library of therapeutic equipment and assistive technology has been established at the Wyoming Life Resource Center in Lander in memory of Anna Maria Weston.

- Many pieces of equipment have been donated from around the state so that others may have access to equipment without having to purchase it.
- Equipment may be borrowed from the center at no charge by anyone living in Wyoming.
- Donations of equipment no longer being used can be made to the lending library.
- Monetary donations can also be made to the Anna Maria Weston Memorial Fund to support the lending library. All donations are tax-deductible.

For more information please contact the Administrative Office at 307-335-6700, Monday – Friday 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Source: <https://health.wyo.gov/behavioralhealth/wlrc/therapeutic-services-information/>



MISSION STATEMENT

To establish,
expand, protect,
and enforce the
human and civil
rights of persons
with disabilities
through administrative,
legal, and other
appropriate remedies.

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