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Dear Partners in the Pennsylvania Community,

Do you know a woman of achievement who happens to use a wheelchair full time in the community? Would this woman be a good role model and advocate for people with disabilities in Pennsylvania? Then nominate her to participate in the Ms. Wheelchair Pennsylvania 2021 Ambassador Program! We are searching for women who are passionate, dynamic, motivated and have a message to share with our state. These accomplished women deserve to be recognized and celebrated!

Last year, Johnstown hosted our event at the Holiday Inn Express. The event attracted a record number of women from across the keystone state to participate in this three day long conference and competition. The women got to learn and engage with ten different workshop presenters. Each night the women got to participate in fun laid back bonding activities. The competition attracted a record number crowd that has caused us to outgrow our venue in our first year. This event gives women the platform to share their story and passion with the state of Pennsylvania. It is more than just a weekend long event, it is a sisterhood of strong women who happen to share a common characteristic.

Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, the annual conference and competition held in Johnstown during the month of October has been cancelled. We have decided to make the event virtual though, which makes our event more inclusive to participants who may not have been able to participate otherwise. This will also increase our platform to be accessed by people across the country. We are taking the competition aspect out of it this year, and letting the women become part of the Ambassador Program.

What is an Ambassador? Essentially, a titleholder in training. While the women who are chosen to advocate and educate about their platforms are beautiful, we are not a beauty pageant. Each advocate will choose a platform they view as important to the disability community. We look for passion, drive, and motivation. As an ambassador, they will have the opportunity to share their platform through appearances and speaking engagements. Virtual learning workshops are scheduled in advance to help them grow as an advocate. There is the possibility of travel within the state, but it is not a requirement. Best of all, great friendships that can grow into a supportive sisterhood to enjoy for life.

Here is our challenge to you: nominate at least one woman, from your area, who uses a wheelchair 100% of the time in public, that deserves to be recognized for her accomplishments, advocacy skills, passion for the disability community, and positive attitude. All contestants must be 21 years of age or older, utilize a wheelchair for 100% of daily community mobility, have lived in Pennsylvania for at least six months, and be willing to fulfill the Ms. Wheelchair Pennsylvania Organization's mission.

The nomination process is simple, and there are two ways to nominate a motivated woman. You or your organization can work with an applicant to put together a full application. This includes an Ambassador Program application that must be returned to us by September 1, 2020, along with the \$150 fee. Or, we can do the work for you! Just send us the nominee's name and contact information by September 1, 2020 and we will send her the Ambassador Program application. To nominate someone, fill out and return the enclosed nomination form.

We are also very excited to launch our Junior Ambassador Program this year! This program will recognize young ladies, ages 13-20, who use a wheelchair full time, dynamic, spirited, positive, and who have something to say to the people in our state! The Junior Ambassadors will work alongside of our current Ambassadors and our current state titleholder to empower and educate people of all ages. Do you know a young lady who would enjoy and embrace this opportunity? Give them the enclosed brochure.

We know there are many fantastic women and young ladies, who use a wheelchair, that are doing wonderful things in our state. We just need your help to find them! Please consider nominating a Ms. Wheelchair Pennsylvania Ambassador participant this year! As always, thank you for your support, and we look forward to celebrating even more women of achievement!

Sincerely,  
Barb Zabloutney