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FODAC Awarded \$100,000 Contract from Atlanta Regional Commission – Area Agency on Aging to Implement Home Modifications for the Disabled

Exclusive Contract Funded by “Money Follows the Person” Government Program

Stone Mountain GA – (4 June 2012) – Friends of Disabled Adults and Children ([FODAC](#)), a non-profit organization providing over \$9 million annually in durable medical equipment and supplies to the disabled community, today announced it has been awarded a \$100,000 contract from the Atlanta Regional Commission – Area Agency on Aging (ARC-AAA) to implement home modifications for the disabled community. The exclusive contract, awarded through a bidding process, is funded through the “Money Follows the Person” program in Georgia (MFP GA), which aims to transition disabled residents of nursing homes and intermediate care facilities (ICF) to their own residences.

“The MFP GA program shares a common goal with FODAC, that of helping the disabled lead more independent lives,” stated Chris Brand, president of FODAC. “We are pleased to be a part of this program, and look forward to working with the agency to move these residents back into their own homes.”

The contract is the latest achievement in FODAC’s long term efforts in the disabled community. The organization’s home modification program designs and implements modifications that make a home more accessible for a disabled resident. These changes include access ramps, wider doors, stair lifts and bathroom modifications. FODAC will be the exclusive vendor for home modifications for the GA MFP initiative, providing a key first step in preparing these individuals for return to their own homes.

“FODAC will be an excellent partner for this program,” said Sue Burgess, program manager, Aging and Disabilities Services, ARC-AAA. “Chris and all the staff have a strong commitment to improving the quality of life for the disabled, and an important part of their efforts is giving these people a true independence. We look forward to working with them to help the MFP participants come home.”

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Money Follows the Person is a rebalancing initiative made possible by an eleven year grant to states from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). MFP allows individuals in nursing homes or other long-term care institutions who are elderly or have physical or developmental disabilities to move out and receive support services to live in their own homes and communities. Money follows the participant by allowing the state to pay for long-term support services in a home and community-based setting rather than an institutional setting. The program was launched in Georgia in 2008 with a goal of transitioning 1,558 individuals. To achieve this goal, the DCH has forged partnerships with many other Georgia state agencies, such as the Department of Human Services, the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities and the Department of Community Affairs. The DCH also works with many local agencies and organizations, such as FODAC, to help with transitions.

About FODAC

FODAC helps children, adults and seniors with disabilities regain their mobility, independence and quality of life. The non-profit organization provides more than \$9 million annually in refurbished home medical equipment (HME) and home modifications in Georgia and across the United States, all at little or no cost to the recipients. A pioneer in re-use, FODAC keeps 185 tons of materials out of landfills each year by refurbishing and reissuing over 300 HME items every month, and is recognized nationally for best practices. Funding comes from grants, private foundations, corporations and individuals.

The organization was started by volunteers who began refurbishing and giving away wheelchairs to disabled in need in metro Atlanta and was officially incorporated as a 501(c)(3) in 1986. Since then, the organization has grown to include a staff of 22 and an average of 34 volunteers per week, and an annual budget of \$1 million. Chris Brand serves as president and executive director. To date, FODAC has provided clients with over \$60 million in medical equipment including over 25,000 wheelchairs. The organization is supported through grants and corporate and private donations. FODAC is headquartered at 4900 Lewis Road, Stone Mountain, Ga., 30083. For more information, visit www.fodac.org or call 770.491.9014.

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