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Friends of Disabled Adults and Children Supports 2012 Paralympic Swimmer and Native Atlantan Curtis Lovejoy

Nine-Time Medalist “Rides in Patriotic Style” at London Event

Stone Mountain GA – (23 July 2012) – Friends of Disabled Adults and Children ([FODAC](#)), a non-profit organization providing over \$10 million annually in durable medical equipment and supplies to the disabled community, today announced the donation of a motorized scooter to [Curtis Lovejoy](#), a member of the [2012 USA Paralympic Swim Team](#) competing in the London games starting on 29 August. The scooter, decorated with a US flag-themed wrap, will enhance Lovejoy’s mobility as he travels to London from Atlanta, as well as onsite at the event and around the city. Lovejoy was disabled in a 1986 car accident; the C5-C7 spinal injury left him paralyzed from the waist down.

“We are proud to support Curtis and Team USA, and be a part of this historic event,” stated Chris Brand, president of FODAC. “Athletes like Curtis help change public perceptions of the disabled by showing that a disability does not limit their extraordinary abilities and achievements. We wish him and the entire US team the best as they ‘go for the gold’ in London.”

FODAC donated the scooter at no cost to Lovejoy; [MobilityWorks](#), a national supplier of wheelchair-accessible vans, covered the cost of the customization. Lovejoy has been a customer of MobilityWorks for over ten years; the company has supported him at every Paralympic competition since his first event in Atlanta in 1996.

“Our goal at MobilityWorks is to provide increased mobility and thus independence for our disabled customers,” said Holly CothranDrake, marketing coordinator, MobilityWorks’ Atlanta office. “We couldn’t ask for a better example of a strong, independent spirit than Curtis Lovejoy. Over the past ten years, he has become more than a customer, he has become a close friend, and we will all be cheering him on to more gold in the coming weeks.”

“This scooter will definitely get some attention there,” stated Lovejoy. “The US flag theme reminds everyone of the pride we feel representing our country at these games. And from a practical standpoint, it will make it much easier for me to get around the athletes’ compound and event complexes. I am so grateful for this gift of support from FODAC and MobilityWorks.”

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Paralympic swimmers are [classified](#) according to their level of impairment. A lower number indicates a more severe activity limitation than a higher one. Swimmers in this sport class have a significant loss of muscle power or control in their legs, arms and hands. Some athletes also have limited trunk control, as it may occur with tetraplegia. These impairments may be caused by spinal-cord injuries, such as Lovejoy's car accident, or polio. Swimmers in this class usually use a wheelchair in daily life.

With the second largest number of athletes at this year's games, swimming is one of the most popular Paralympic sports. Lovejoy will be competing in the 50 meter, 100 meter and 200 meter freestyle events; the 50 meter backstroke event; and the 50 meter breaststroke event. Lovejoy currently holds the world record in both the men's S2 50 meter and S2 100 meter freestyle long course, and has a total of nine medals from performances at the games in Atlanta, Sydney, Athens and Beijing. His record-breaking achievements are not confined to swimming; in 2006, Lovejoy made history by being the first athlete (disabled or able-bodied) to win gold medals in two non-related sports – swimming and fencing. He qualified for the 2012 US fencing team, but declined the invitation to participate because he wanted to focus solely on swimming.

"I'm feeling good about our chances of gold," he said. "We have a team goal of 100 medals total, with half of those gold. And I'm definitely looking for some of those to be mine."

When he's not swimming or fencing, Lovejoy travels the world as a motivational speaker. "My motto is simple," he says. "Don't let the disability control you. You control the disability."

About FODAC

Friends of Disabled Adults and Children (FODAC) helps the disabled of all ages regain their mobility, independence and quality of life. The non-profit organization provides more than \$10 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 200 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.

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