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## **TRAVELING WITH A DIFFERENT SET OF WHEELS IMPROVES QUALITY OF LIFE**

LOGAN, Utah — Dave Enkerud of St. George was not able to afford an accessible van that would safely and easily transport him and his wheelchair. Then he found out about the non-profit Utah Assistive Technology Foundation and applied for a low-interest loan to purchase a van equipped with a ramp for his wheelchair.

The new van has changed his life and has improved the quality of life for both him and his wife, LoriAnn.

“LoriAnn does not have to transfer me anymore from my wheelchair to the small car we had,” Dave said. “It was difficult for her to do this because I am bigger than her and she also has health problems. The van has provided an improved quality of life for my wife and me.”

Dave could no longer walk after he had a stroke. He relies on a wheelchair to get around. Before Dave and his wife purchased the accessible van it was difficult for him to go anywhere, such as a doctor appointment, to church or shopping.

The UATF, a non-profit 501(c) (3) organization, was founded in 1991 to help children and adults receive the assistive technology devices they need. This program offers Utahns with disabilities of all ages the opportunity to borrow money at an affordable cost (no fees and very low interest) so they can purchase much-needed devices, including hearing aids, scooters, Braille notetakers, print enlargers, accessible vans, home modifications and more.

After the Enkerud's van was purchased through UATF, the organization Red Rock for Independence, a center for independent living in St. George, Utah, installed a ramp on the van to make it accessible.

"Working with the UATF staff was a very positive experience," said Dave. "Everything went smoothly."

"Having the capability to purchase the van has been incredible for us," said LoriAnn. "Dave now has the freedom to go out and about. We never dreamed we could get a van because they are so expensive. Zions Bank and the UATF provided such affordable rates on our loan."

Dave and LoriAnn were encouraged to fill out a loan application, but didn't think they would qualify for a loan.

"I procrastinated filling out the loan application, but just one week after we submitted the application the bank called and told us to find a van to buy," said LoriAnn. "We were so excited and shocked."

"We cannot thank the UATF and Zions bank enough for working with us," said LoriAnn.

The UATF has experienced tremendous success, funding over 950 loans, worth more than \$5 million. The UATF is housed at the Center for Persons with Disabilities on the Utah State University campus, but services are provided statewide.

For more information about the UATF and how to apply for a low-interest loan, call 800-524-5152 or visit [www.uatf.org](http://www.uatf.org).

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