

The story of a Legacy.

Built upon the power of *many*.
Started by the inspiration of *one*.



Max's Story

During an intramural football game in November, 1963, Ohio State student Dick "Max" Maxwell scored the winning touchdown, but suffered a spinal injury which left him paralyzed.

While many would see this injury as a traumatic end, it was actually a triumphant beginning for Dick to champion the efforts of disability access and empowerment. After two years of surgeries and rehabilitation, "Max" returned to his classes at Ohio State to earn his degree. Helped by his mother, his fraternity brothers and high school friends who lifted his manual wheelchair into the university buildings. This was eight years before the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, 23 years before the Fair Housing Amendment Act of 1988, and 25 years before the Americans with Disabilities Act – a time when accessibility and protections for the disabled were few.

Then, in 1968, an article in *The Columbus Dispatch* highlighted the struggle for quadriplegics like Max who had nowhere to go after their rehabilitation – particularly if they desired to live on their own, but needed some day-to-day assistance. **The response from professionals, disability advocates, and community leaders to solve this unique housing dilemma was the catalyst for Creative Living.**

Since 1974, Creative Living has provided affordable, wheelchair accessible housing to adults with disabilities who desire to further their education, pursue careers and passions, and contribute to the community. *It's what Max envisioned.*

Our Service Board ... Reimagined

Max's Brigade is the re-invented and expanded program formerly known as the Creative Living Service Board. The purpose of the Service Board is to spread joy and promote a sense of community among the residents at Creative Living.

The Creative Living community is comprised of 34 residents united by their desire to live independently and productively despite their disabilities. It also includes so many more who support our residents and the mission of our organization – as friends, family members, donors, staff, trustees, volunteers, corporations and foundations – united for a common purpose.

This collective is more than just a service board. ***It is a brigade.*** And there's no better name for such an organization than one which honors the legacy of the inspiration behind the community and its mission. **So, Max's Brigade was born!**

We are humbled by those who advocate for individuals with disabilities, and we are honored to join them in a legacy that supports the Creative Living mission and vision. We sincerely hope that you will join us, too – *as part of Max's Brigade!*

“The greatness of a community is most accurately measured by the compassionate actions of its members.”

- Coretta Scott King





Your level of membership in Max's Brigade can consist of one, two or three aspects of the program...
will you make an impact?

Join the Brigade Today!

SUSTAINING/SINGLE DONATION

Help fund resident social activities and boost the Resident Relief Fund, providing grants to lessen the burden of major, unexpected expenses.

As a Sustaining Member, your annual tax deductible donation of \$50 or more help sustain resident programs and underwrites the cost of holiday parties, cookouts, and resident birthday gifts.

In addition, 50% of each donation is allocated to the Resident Relief Fund, providing grants to residents for unexpected expenses. An example of the Resident Relief fund at work is providing grants allowing the purchase of seat elevators and a Hoyer lift for residents in need.

IN-KIND DONATION

Assist by providing gifts or special treats and surprises designed to brighten a resident's day or provide a welcome diversion.

In-Kind Members inject sunshine into the resident's day with sincere kindness. Cookies trays, gift baskets, decorations and events tickets are just some of the examples donated for the enjoyment of Creative Living residents.

Whether a gift of hanging baskets of flowers to brighten an entryway, or tickets to a concert, State Fair or local sports team – even a new grill or games for the lobbies – In-Kind donors provide enrichment and encouragement that our residents truly appreciate.

VOLUNTEER

Support the efforts of the Creative Living staff by giving your time for a variety of activities throughout the year.

Volunteer Members of all ages provide assistance to Creative Living staff and residents throughout the year in various ways.

Volunteers can assist around either facility with everything from light landscaping to helping residents with chores around their apartments.

Their work also includes much needed help at the Creative Living offices, work during events, or even offering their talents by serving on any of our various committees.



“ If I didn't get a new lift, my whole daily life routine would have been disturbed...I would have gone from being active and mobile to being bed-ridden. It's because of the Resident Relief Fund (Max's Brigade) that I remain independent and active today.”

- Chris, Creative Living resident

Our Community is a Brigade

Max's Brigade amplifies the collective contributions of all the members of our community who make Creative Living a warm, welcoming place to live for our residents. Under a single umbrella, it unites **financial contributors** whose donations sustain resident programming, **in-kind donors** who provide services, and/or answer pleas for emergency supplies or assistance, and **volunteers** who give their time so willingly in various ways throughout the year.

Join the Brigade today!



CREATIVE LIVING

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follow us:    

SINCE 1974



Help Write the Story...

The power of Max's brigade is built upon the collective contributions of all its members. Join the Brigade today by scanning the QR code or completing the enclosed envelope.