



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**RIDE-AWAY LOCATIONS WORK TOGETHER TO PROVIDE A SERVICE VETERAN WITH HIS DREAM VAN**

**Londonderry, NH – December 13, 2007** – Ride-Away’s Londonderry, NH and Tampa, FL locations worked together to provide U.S. Army Service Veteran, Rob Smith, with the van of his dreams. By utilizing their resources and using some creativity, the Ride-Away technicians were able to take a standard modified mini-van and make it into a highly customized van for both Rob and his wife Stella to enjoy.

“[Rob and Stella] deserve the best,” says Ride-Away Production Manager, Terry Crotty. “None of this would have been possible without the technical work of Bill Cushing and Buddy Riley (Londonderry, NH Service Technicians), as well as the customer service and dependability of Russ Guajardo (Tampa, FL Sales Consultant) and Forrest Bateman (Tampa, FL General Manager).”

Rob wanted his new van to look exactly like his previous van, a 2004 Chrysler Town & Country Limited but his new 2007 Chrysler Town & Country Limited has an even better interior than his old van. Ride-Away technician, Buddy Riley, looked at pictures of the inside of the previous van and handcrafted new wood interior trim to fit into Rob’s new van. Ride-Away technicians also put in a custom raised roof, made an “eye-brow” raised door, increasing the height of the side entry door by 3 inches for easier access in and out of the van, and installed infinity lighting and a 21- inch flat screen television, along with a DVD player and wireless headphones. “My van gets plenty of attention everywhere I go,” says Rob.

Ride-Away reduced the effort level necessary to steer the van and to allow Rob to be positioned safely behind the steering wheel when he is driving, Ride-Away installed a fully automatic lock down that anchors his wheelchair securely while maintaining the vehicle’s safety features such as the lap and shoulder seat belts and the automatic pre-tensioning system. Newly developed voice activated technology allows Rob to operate the van’s critical secondary functions (those needed to be operated while the van is in motion) such as the directionals and windshield wipers. This is especially critical since Rob’s arms are busy with the gas, brakes, and steering.

“The service and respect we received from everyone we worked with made us feel like we were part of the Ride-Away family,” stated Rob. “This is my ninth van that I have owned with driving equipment [and] this is the best one yet. The Ride-Away technicians are a step above the rest. All of the paperwork with the VA was handled for me by Russ to make this a very smooth transaction.”

Rob was born in England and moved to the United States in 1967, joining the U.S. Army in 1972. He quickly climbed the ranks, starting as a Battery Clerk and making his way up to Drill Sergeant. After eight years of service, he was forced to retire after he suffered a spinal cord injury from a driving accident. Rob now resides in Florida with his wife of 16 years, Stella. In 1995, Rob founded Disabled Dealer Magazine, regional publications that allow individuals and businesses to sell their used and new adaptive equipment, accessible vans, scooters, wheelchairs, homes and more. Rob also serves on the Gulf Coast Paralyzed Veterans of America (PVA) Board, is the Chairman of the Self Reliance Board of Hillsborough County's Center for Independent Living, Chairman of the James A. Haley Veteran Hospital PVA Hospital Committee, and is a member of the Mayor's Alliance for Persons with Disabilities.

**ABOUT RIDE-AWAY:** ([www.ride-away.com](http://www.ride-away.com))

Ride-Away is America's largest provider of modified vehicles and adaptive equipment for people with disabilities. Ride-Away products are used by individuals with minor to profound disabilities requiring additional assistance while traveling and range from hand controls and lifts to raised door and lowered floor vehicle modifications. Founded in 1986, Ride-Away's 11 East Coast locations are committed to offering a broad selection of specialized vehicles and services to meet the needs of every customer. All of Ride-Away's locations are also QAP (Quality Assurance Program) certified through the National Mobility Equipment Dealers Association (NMEDA), resulting in Ride-Away being held to the highest standards in the industry. For more information, call (888)-RIDE-AWAY or visit our website at [www.ride-away.com](http://www.ride-away.com).

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