



## Transitioning from Life-Altering Disability to Renewed Independence

**BAM!** The heavy textbook slams to the ground. “That’s how fast your life can change,” Tim Fournier tells the startled students. “Everyone thinks it won’t happen to them but in an instant, life as you know it, can take a drastic turn.” To some, this approach may seem a bit over dramatic but Tim is intent on making his point. “However devastating you think this event is,” Tim continues, “there are ways to reclaim your life.”

At the age of 19, Tim was helping a friend work on his truck when he fell from the engine compartment and hit his chin, breaking his neck and leaving him a quadriplegic. That was 19 years ago. Now when Tim isn’t working at Ride-Away, he shares his story with high school life education students (he also speaks to college occupational therapy classes). He talks about his life with a disability and how adaptive equipment has helped him regain his independence. Speaking about how he has overcome the challenges associated with the accident and illustrating how he uses his modified van is something Tim enjoys most.

After Tim purchased his first modified van from Ride-Away, the company asked if he would show his vehicle to a prospective customer. Tim was so good at presenting the van’s capabilities that he sold the van right then and there. Tim’s ability to sell, coupled with his mechanical background and knowledge on how the lifts were built, led to a job offer by Ride-Away. In 1997, Tim teamed with Ride-Away to open the company’s first satellite office in East Hartford, Connecticut. Today, he is one of the company’s top sales people.

Because of Tim’s first hand knowledge and experience, he is a big asset to the company. “I’ve been doing this for a long time and am well known in the industry so a lot of customers are referred to me. When people come into Ride-Away, they realize that I was once in their shoes, in need of a modified van to get around. With my unique perspective, I’m able to help people navigate their way from a passenger setup all the way to joystick driving,” Tim says.

*“My reward is to see people become independent again.”*

-Tim Fournier



*Tim proudly offers a unique perspective of professional knowledge with first hand experience.*

- The longest warranties in the industry – 5 year/60,000 mile warranty on all Braun and Viewpoint lowered-floor minivan conversions
- The largest adaptive vehicle inventory – over 400 vehicles in stock
- In-house financing available - up to 10 years from initial finance date
- All modified and non-modified vehicles accepted for trade
- Eleven East Coast locations from Maine to Florida plus access to a reciprocal service network of over 180 dealers throughout the country
- Satisfaction Guarantee – Select pre-owned vehicles may be returned within 30 days of purchase for a full credit toward the purchase of another vehicle\*
- 24/7 Emergency roadside assistance available to all Ride-Away customers\*\*

To learn more about Ride-Away, visit [www.Ride-Away.com](http://www.Ride-Away.com) or call 888-Ride-Away.

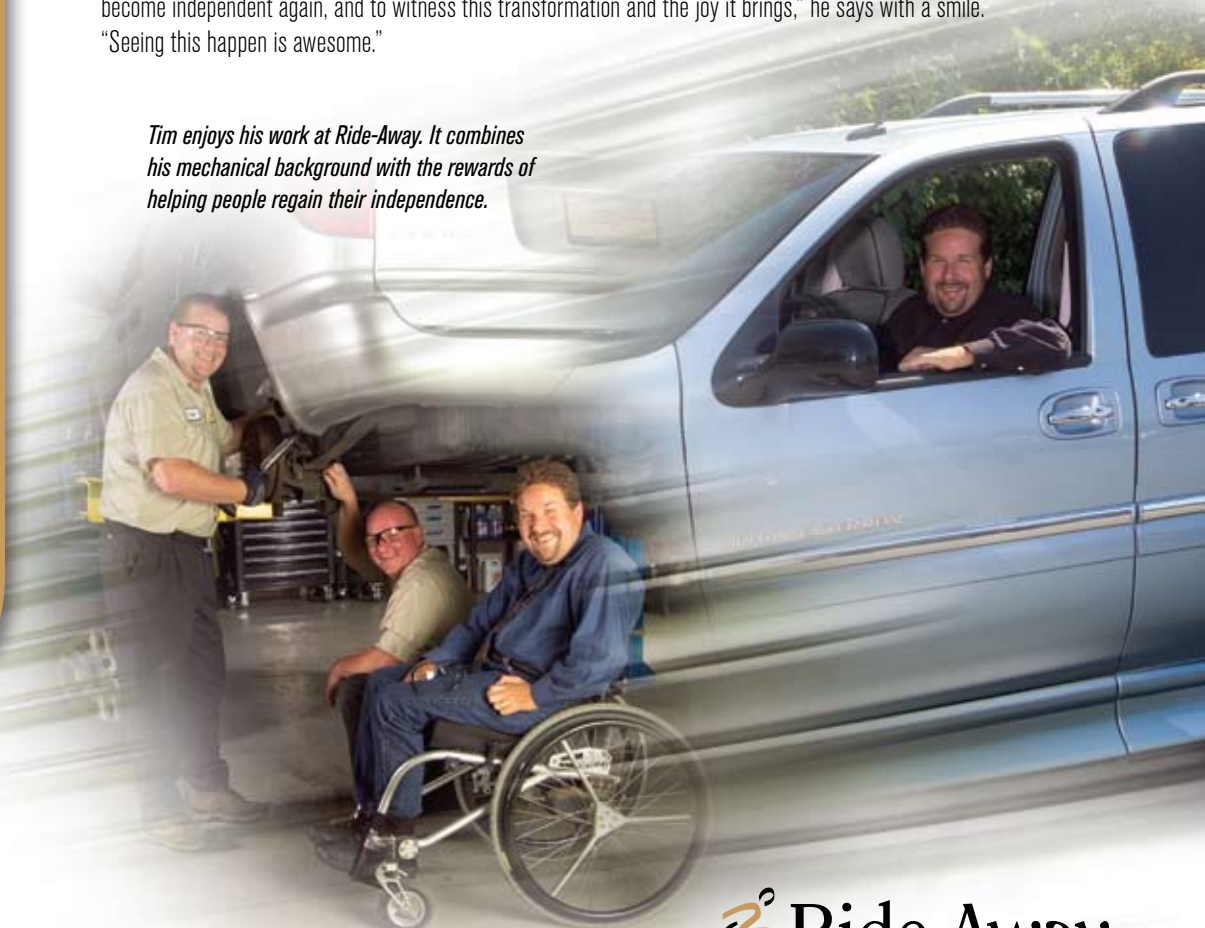
Ride-Away employees like Tim pride themselves on helping individuals regain their independence by navigating through the process of selecting a modified vehicle. "It is beneficial to develop a relationship with a trustworthy source early on, one who will make the commitment to learn about your exact needs every step of the way," Ride-Away President Mark Lore says. "We not only train our mobility consultants on adaptive equipment but on the various characteristics of disabilities and the implications for driving or riding with those disabilities," he continues. In this way, Ride-Away can help individuals and their families avoid costly mistakes up front such as buying inappropriate equipment or making unnecessary modifications. Ride-Away employees combine depth of knowledge with compassion, taking the time to explain the challenges in using various types of equipment.

One of the things Tim finds most fulfilling is working with a family over a period of time. For example, Tim proudly mentions Matt, whose family first came to see him when Matt was young and upgrading from a manual to a power chair. He has seen the family through three modified vans and now that Matt is 17, Tim recently oversaw the installation of Matt's joystick driving system so the teen can drive on his own. "I was so excited for Matt," says Tim. "The new driver is what I do this for every day."

During the 19 years since his accident, Tim has volunteered with various disability organizations, from being a mentor and role model to people with new injuries to participating in charitable events with his wife Laura. Tim has received the Muscular Dystrophy Association (MDA) Humanitarian Award and the Spinal Cord Injury Association President's Professionalism Award.

Tim's personal dedication to getting drivers with disabilities comfortable behind the wheel of a modified van mirrors the mission of Ride-Away. The company actively works to be a "different kind of company," one that builds a better life for everyone who comes through its doors, including clients and employees like Tim. "My reward is to see people become independent again, and to witness this transformation and the joy it brings," he says with a smile. "Seeing this happen is awesome."

*Tim enjoys his work at Ride-Away. It combines his mechanical background with the rewards of helping people regain their independence.*



\*Second vehicle must be of equal or greater value.  
Not all vehicles qualify.

\*\*Charges may apply.



 Ride-Away

We Deliver Freedom.