

## Porter County Aging & Community Services, Inc.

# NEWS RELEASE

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### For Immediate Release

June 13, 2008

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### TASK FORCE TIPS RAMPS UP FOR THE DAY OF CARING

**Valparaiso** – On Thursday, a group of Task Force Tips employees in collaboration with Porter County Aging & Community Services (PCACS) built a ramp for a disabled Valparaiso man as an early project for the United Way Day of Caring scheduled for Friday, August 22. Task Force Tips was looking for a Day of Caring project that allowed their employees to use their skills to help the community. According to PCACS Executive Director, Bruce Lindner, “Our ramp project was a good match for the Task Force Tips group. Their Product Development Engineers got to use their skills to help one of our clients in need. This was a win for them, for PCACS, and for Michael Austin.”

Michael has Multiple Sclerosis (MS), an autoimmune disease that affects the central nervous system, and needed a ramp on his new home in order to move in and start his new life there. Michael uses the PCACS demand response transportation service and recently contacted them to find out if they could help him with a ramp. Michael had to move out of his apartment because the steps to get out were hazardous especially during the winter and he needed a home with a walk in shower. His new home has a walk in shower, but he couldn't move in and live there without a ramp.

Porter County Aging & Community Services uses grant funding and donations to build and/or repair ramps for Porter County seniors and disabled residents in need. To date, they have built eight ramps including the one Task Force Tips built for Michael on Thursday. “We would not be able to build ramps for local people in need if it wasn't for the funding we've received through the United Way, the Porter County Community Foundation, Saint Theresa of Avila, Valpo Care & Rehab and several generous individuals. Task Force Tips really came through for us when we had a client with an urgent need for a ramp and they will build an additional ramp on the actual Day of Caring in August.” stated Lindner.

According to *United Way Volunteer Center* Director, Kathy Bonaventura, “The Day of Caring is such a remarkable event because small or large companies, civic or church groups, can form a team and choose a project that they want to complete. The United Ways in Lake, Porter & LaPorte counties have asked the nonprofits what they need done around their building sites or their clients' needs and these projects are posted online. You could choose to paint a room, spruce up a garden area, or like the ramp project, use your skills. There is something for everyone! You can view the projects and sign up TODAY by going to [www.dayofcaringpc.org](http://www.dayofcaringpc.org). Help make a difference right in your own community by joining Task Force Tips and hundreds of other volunteers for the 1<sup>st</sup> United Way *Regional* Day of Caring on August 22<sup>nd</sup>!”

For more information about Porter County Aging & Community Services, you can visit their website at [www.portercountyacs.org](http://www.portercountyacs.org) or call the office at (219) 464-9736. To make a donation toward their ramp project,

note “ramp project” on your check payable to: Porter County Aging & Community Services, 1005 Campbell Street, Valparaiso, IN 46385.

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