



**New Hampshire  
Governor's Commission on Disability**

**"Removing Barriers to Equality"**



Christopher T. Sununu, Governor  
Paul Van Blarigan, Chair  
Charles J. Saia, Executive Director

June 15, 2017

His Excellency, Governor Christopher T. Sununu  
And the Honorable Council  
State House  
Concord, NH 03301

**REQUESTED ACTION**

Pursuant to the RSA 275-C:8, authorize the Governor's Commission on Disability to accept a donation of five accessible beach wheelchairs worth an estimated total retail value of \$12,500.00 from SMILE Mass for the purpose of providing individuals with a disability, greater accessibility to New Hampshire State Beaches. Effective upon Governor and Council approval. There are no general funds involved with this request.

**EXPLANATION**

The Governor's Commission on Disability has been given the opportunity to receive the above-referenced accessible beach wheelchairs. SMILE Mass, Inc. (Small Miracles in Life Exist) is a 501C3, non-profit organization located in Sudbury MA. SMILE Mass' mission is to assist persons with a disability to enjoy recreation and vacation experiences through various programs, including providing beaches with accessible beach wheelchairs. SMILE Mass endeavors to expand its program beyond Massachusetts and into New Hampshire. To date, SMILE Mass has donated over 100 beach wheelchairs across Massachusetts. Last year a student from Franklin Pierce University, through a fundraiser was able to raise \$10,000.00 to secure the placement of the beach wheelchairs in NH. Ms. Lotte Diomede, the Co-Founder and President of SMILE Mass, immediately contacted this Commission and informed us of the donation.

The donation is being made to the Governor's Commission on Disability in order to provide opportunities to extend the program further. The initial 5 chairs will be deployed in State Parks through a Memorandum of Understanding with the Department of Resources and Economic Development Division of Parks and Recreation.

Your favorable consideration of this request would be greatly appreciated.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Charles J. Saia". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent flourish at the end.

Charles J. Saia  
Executive Director



Governor's Commission on Disability  
Attn: Mr. Charles Saia  
121 South Fruit Street, Suite 101  
Concord, NH 03301

June 15, 2017

Dear Mr. Saia,

SMILE Mass is a non-profit based in Sudbury, MA, with the mission of helping families raising children and adults with disabilities enjoy happy healthy memories through vacation and recreation experiences. One way we accomplish this is through our beach wheelchair program.

SMILE Mass donates floating beach wheelchairs to the appropriate agency in each town or state. The floating beach wheelchairs go from the hard surface of the parking lot, over the sand and right into the water and float. There is no cost to the recipients, as this is a donation from SMILE Mass. The value of this donation is approximately \$2,500 per floating beach wheelchair. SMILE Mass plans to donate 5 floating beach wheelchairs to The State of NH, Governor's Commission on Disability, therefore the value of this donation is approximately \$12,500.

These floating beach wheelchairs are to be placed on public beaches and made readily available to the public, making a beach day accessible to everyone, despite disability.

We look forward to arranging a time to make the donation of the 5 floating beach wheelchairs. We strive to make all of our donations by July 1 so the program can be readily available once summer is underway. We do understand that sometimes more time is needed to get the proper procedures in place. If that is the case, please let us know so we can work together to arrange an appropriate timeline.

Sincerely,

Lotte Diomede

SMILE Mass  
President and Co-Founder  
617-967-7755

**Lotte Diomede**  
President & Co-Founder  
lotte@smilemass.org

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**Susan Brown**  
Vice-President &  
Co-Founder  
susan@smilemass.org





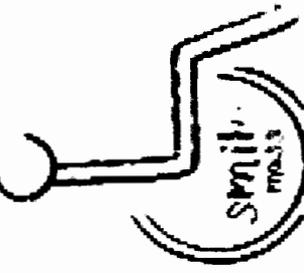
SMILE Mass is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization dedicated to providing happy, healthy memories to families living with children or adults with disabilities. Join SMILE Mass in making the world we live in more accessible.

## **WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT**

Our success is solely dependent on our ability to raise funds through donations, sponsorships, grants, etc. Your support will directly impact all of the SMILE Mass programs.

**Donate today at [smilemass.org](http://smilemass.org)**

We, at SMILE Mass, believe in the simple things in life - a barrier free world, where everyone belongs despite disability. Make sure to take advantage of one of the many programs provided by SMILE Mass. Together we can build a better tomorrow!



small miracles do life exist

## **CURRENT PROGRAMS OFFERED BY SMILE MASS**

- Equipment Loaner Program
- Beach Wheelchairs - Mass.
- Martha's Vineyard and Canada Beach Wheelchair program coming in 2017
- Running Team - all abilities welcomed
- Cape Cod accessible house - In Progress
- Medical Supplies - In Progress
- SMILE Playground in Sudbury



**Donations can be made at  
[smilemass.org](http://smilemass.org)**

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Lotie Diomede 617-967-7755  
e-mail us at [info@smilemass.org](mailto:info@smilemass.org).  
Visit our website at [smilemass.org](http://smilemass.org).