

Repairing Wheels and Strengthening Community in Uintah Basin

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Fixed wheelchair with three transition group members.

Communities working together can truly bring about meaningful change.

The Uintah Basin location of the Utah Assistive Technology Program recently teamed up with the North Eastern Services (NES) transition group to repair a member's wheelchair. The individual, who has a brain and neurological condition, had worn down his wheelchair, frequently breaking off armrests and other components.

In partnership with UATP, the group repurposed donated parts from other wheelchairs and worked diligently to restore the damaged one. Ensuring freedom of mobility is vital, so it was crucial to make sure the wheelchair was both dependable and comfortable for this individual.

"The day we finished the repairs was particularly special," said Wes Smith, UATP lab coordinator. "Watching the individual test out his newly repaired wheelchair brought smiles and cheers from our group. It was heartwarming to see him maneuver with newfound ease."

While the time spent on the wheelchair repair was undoubtedly significant for the individual, it also allowed the transition group to practice valuable technical skills.

NES "supports opportunities for people to achieve independence, enhance self esteem and sustain a full quality life," according to the [NES website](#).

The group frequently visits UATP to engage in ongoing projects, benefiting the community while refining their hands-on expertise in the process.

To Smith, "Sometimes, the most significant changes come from small acts of kindness and collaboration."

If you are interested in volunteering with the UATP, or would like to donate assistive technology, please call 1-800-524-5152.