SAFETY TIPS FOR TRANSPORTING RESIDENTS IN WHEELCHAIRS

- Watch resident’s arms and legs when going through doorways to make sure they are in towards their body to prevent pinching them between the doorway and wheelchair.

- Always talk to the resident and let them know when you are going to moved them and again when you are going to stop.

- Never leave a resident unattended on an out of building outing.

- Only lock the wheelchair brakes when indicated for safety or when on the vehicle lift.

- When entering the elevator, turn the resident and wheelchair around so you are backing in first and the resident is facing the elevator doors.

- If you are approaching grass, a sidewalk, low curb to the entry of a building, or if you are going down a slope **slow down.** When pushing a wheelchair, look ahead and watch for these areas as well as holes, inclines and any unevenness in the pavement that could cause potential problems. If you hit that type of area too fast the resident may pitch forward and fall out of the wheelchair. You may need to secure a resident by placing a hand on their shoulder. In these situations, it may be necessary to turn the resident and wheelchair around so you are backing up (pulling the chair and resident). If you are going down an incline, you may need to do the same thing; turn the wheelchair and resident around in order to go down the incline backwards. To get over a raised area, put your foot on the lower back bar of the wheelchair and tip back as this helps lift the front tires.

If you have any questions, please always ask the Recreation Therapy personnel that are with you.

Thanks,

Luann Rose
Volunteer Outreach Specialist