Deshae Lott Ministries Inc

# Meet the Recipients of the 2011 CMMS Deshae Lott Ministries Outreach Program

# Quality-of-Life Grants

## Melissa K. Caffey

### Recipient of a $500 Quality-of-Life Grant

*Melissa Caffey, $500 Grant Recipient*

The CMMS Deshae Lott Ministries Outreach Program Selection Committee is pleased to award a $500 Quality of Life Grant to Melissa K. Caffey of Springfield, Missouri. Melissa was diagnosed with the Limb-Girdle Muscular Dystrophy in 1996. She can no longer stand and uses a power wheelchair at all times. She feels that the progression of her disease has allowed her to become more creative in every aspect of her life, and “I look forward to using my creativity to make my life and the lives of others better. I believe this is my purpose in life.”

Melissa needs assistance with all aspects of self-care except seeing and hearing. These include mobility, personal grooming and hygiene, meal planning, shopping and preparation; breathing, clearing secretions, respiratory treatments and other essential medical procedures; transportation, housekeeping and communication (writing, typing, speaking). She plans to use the grant to buy personal supplies essential to daily living that are not covered by any form of government assistance. Stocking up on these supplies will enable her to live a better quality of life on her limited income.

*Diana Mass, 2011 Quality-of-Life Grant Recipient*

# Diana Mass

## Recipient of a $500
## CMMS Deshae Lott Ministries
## Outreach Program
## Quality of Life Grant

**Diana Mass** of St. George, Utah was paralyzed in 1996 at the age of 42. She is a quadriplegic, and after years of rehabilitation she made a decision in 2008 to go to school, and, as she says, “to make use of my eyes and my mind and my voice, the things I still have control over.” She had been a design and construction consultant, first helping corporations find and build out office space all over the United States, and then later in a construction company with her then-husband for more than 20 years.

First, with the help of the Utah Department of Vocational Rehabilitation, she learned how to use a computer again, using a HeadMouse to control the computer with a laser camera and a reflective dot stuck to her forehead. Having mastered that, she went on to take a Computer Aided Design and Drafting class. After some basic drafting classes, she learned how to design houses and buildings from the ground up using Building Image Management (BIM) software, then moved on to civil drafting, learning how to design subdivisions and water drainage systems. She also studied 3D Industrial Design and Geographical Information Systems, or computerized mapmaking.

This winter, she graduated at age 60 and earned her certification in Architectural, Mechanical and Civil drafting. Her goal now is to use her skills to help baby boomers and disabled people with redesigned spaces that will accommodate needs that change with their life circumstances. Diana says it best in her own words: “These past few years have taught me that it is never too late to reinvent yourself, no matter what your situation may be. I believe that each day is a gift, and to be able to use that gift to help others is my goal.”

# Jacoby Henry

## Recipient of a $250 CMMS Deshae Lott Ministries Outreach Program Quality-of-Life Grant

Jacoby and Cordarius Henry are two teenage brothers who were referred by their private duty pediatric nurse, Charleen M. Huval. They live in Lafayette, Louisiana.

Seventeen-year-old Jacoby Henry has been diagnosed with Duchenne Muscular Dytrophy with Respiratory Failure and Scoliosis. He was placed on a ventilator in June of 2010. He is also no longer able to eat or drink by mouth and has a permanent gastro feeding tube.  He has recently become confined to his hospital bed 24 hours a day, and a few weeks ago donated his electric wheelchair to a young girl with Brittle Bone Diease who needed it for her own ambulation.

# Cordarius Henry

## Recipient of a $250 CMMS Deshae Lott Ministries Outreach Program Quality-of-Life Grant

Jacoby's nineteen-year-old brother Cordarius is also afflicted with severe Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy and Scoliosis. He is confined to his hospital bed and electric wheelchair.

Both boys are totally dependent for all their daily needs. Their mother, Donna Henry, is a single parent on 24-hour duty caring for her sons, and thus cannot work outside the home.  Ms. Huval applied for the grant on the boys' behalf in hopes that the money might help to buy them some nice Christmas extras. She also took responsibility for dispensing the funds.  Cordarius and Jacoby particularly love movies, CD's and video games, and they are also in need of necessities such as pajamas, baby wipes, sheets and towels.

The Outreach Selection Committee awarded each of the boys a $250 grant. We have already received an enthusiastic note of thanks from Ms. Huval, and a promise for pictures after their shopping expedition.

# John C. (Jay) Ruckelshaus IV

## Recipient of a $500 CMMS Deshae Lott Ministries Outreach Program Quality-of-Life Grant

Jay's application came just this week, but we were so inspired by him and so eager to help him realize his goals that we decided to award his grant this year rather than waiting for the next cycle. John Christian Ruckelshaus IV is an 18-year-old graduate of Cathedral High in Carmel, Indiana, where he was co-valedictorian of his class and a star athlete, scholar and musician. He had accepted a full ride scholarship to Duke University, having turned down offers from Harvard, Yale and Indiana University. Then, one night last summer, he dove into a reservoir that turned out to be only four feet deep. He never lost consciousness, but lost feeling immediately. He had broken his neck between the C4 and C5 vertebrae, lost feeling from the shoulders down, and lost the ability to breathe on his own. He was told he was not likely to get back any of his physical capabilities, but he and his mother have both been very dedicated to his recovery. They went to the Shepherd Center in Atlanta, which specializes in spinal cord injuries First he learned to breathe again and was able to get off the vent, and then he relearned how to speak despite the hole in his trachea. Now he already has some arm movement back. By mid-October, he could lift a fork to his mouth and pet the clinic's kitten, and he has learned to use a paintbrush and a joystick.

His faith is very strong and he and his mother are both very hopeful. He does not expect to be in a wheelchair for the rest of his life, and he is in an experimental program at the Shepherd Center that may eventually help him walk again. He will be home in Indianapolis by Christmas, and hopes to go to Duke by Fall 2012. He will need 24-hour assistance in order to do that.

We are awarding Jay's $500 grant through his Legacy Foundation at the Joseph Maley Foundation, originally established by a Indianapolis woman named Vivian Maley, in memory of her son Joseph who had multiple physical challenges and who died of leukemia at age 18. Ms. Maley established the foundation to help a wide variety of children in a wide variety of circumstances.