

Southwest Center for Independent Living announces the 2nd Annual "Lift Up Benefit Concert" to be held from 2 to 4:30 p.m. Aug. 28 at the Jim Stafford Theatre in Branson.

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Money raised will help provide wheelchair lifts to area residents.

"If you are a person with a disability and cannot get in and out of your own home, then you are virtually a prisoner," said Gary Maddox, SCIL executive director, in a news release.

"Wheelchair lifts allow persons trapped in their home access to the outside world and regain their independence."

In 1991, SCIL began the Renovation and Modification Projects program to allow low-income individuals to have access and safety in their own homes at no cost.

Modifications include construction of wheelchair ramps or lifts for the home, widening of doorways adaptations for roll-in showers and installation of grab bars.

Making these types of modifications creates more self-sufficiency for consumers and often lets them avoid having to move into a nursing home or other facility.

In 2009, SCIL built 65 ramps -- 52 were built by volunteers -- installed two wheelchair lifts and offered nearly 100 other modifications.

Due to the hilly terrain in Stone and Taney counties, typical wooden ramps cannot be built to gain access in and out of some homes. The alternative becomes a wheelchair lift, which cost an average of \$7,500 to purchase and install.

In the SCIL service area, 12 persons with disabilities need a wheelchair lift today to get back their freedom.

The "Lift Up" Benefit Concert will feature local entertainers with country, rock and bluegrass musical performances including Barbara Fairchild, Lori Locke, Mike Cathcart, Honkysuckle, Jason Sain & The Fool Hearted, Lonesome Hollow Bluegrass Band, Penny Cardin, Bucket N Boards, Big Boy Wisdom and hosted by Bob Leftridge of the Baldknobbers.

In addition to the concert, a silent auction will be held at the event.

To purchase tickets (\$20), contact the Jim Stafford Theatre at 335-8080.

SCIL serves individuals of any age with any disability and their family members within Christian, Dallas, Greene, Lawrence, Polk, Stone, Taney and Webster counties.

For more information, visit the Southwest Center for Independent Living website at [www.swcil.org](http://www.swcil.org).

**Do you have stories of Ozarkers helping out each other? If you or your group is holding a fundraiser, donation drive or church benefit, for example, e-mail enough information to us at [webeditor@news-leader.com](mailto:webeditor@news-leader.com) for us to fully explain the event to readers. Include contact information. We'll run items like this under the label "Helping Hands," although we may write bigger stories as well.**

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