Wheel Chair Ramp Ministry

This Mission Module is provided through a Partnership with the Ramp Guys Ramp Ministry, of Centenary UMC, Bath, NY and Avoca UMC, Avoca, NY, and Caregiving Ministries, a division of FamilyCare America, Inc.
Purpose
The mission of the Wheel Chair Ramp Ministry Team is to assist those who need help with adaptations to the main entrance of their home to enter and exit the home safely and regularly.

Goals
- To enable members to enter and exit their homes safely and regularly by providing a safe, code adherent ramp and aid the financial process for ramp construction.

Objectives
- Assist recipient in obtaining financial assistance to build the ramp.
- Visit home site to establish dimensions of ramp needed.
- Determine resources available to meet the needs:
  - What the individual and/or family can do
  - What friends or church members can do
  - What community resources are available
- Construct ramp according to directions and site parameters.

Parameters and Limitations
This module may involve fees or cost to the individual, depending on the funds available. Before beginning this ministry, the church should determine how to handle costs. If the individual is expected to pay part or all of the cost, a contract should be signed by both parties—the church and the recipient. The financial ability to pay for services should be considered in determining what help is given. The ability of family members to assist should be considered. However, this module can become an effective ministry opportunity for those with skills such as carpentry, architecture, design or contracting. Do not attempt projects that require meeting city/county codes unless you are licensed to do so. Aging, declining health, and disabilities should be determining factors for recipients of this ministry. Also, teams in this ministry should not duplicate services provided by the Department for Social Services or other agencies, but cooperate with them.
SUGGESTED PROCESS FOR THIS MINISTRY

1. Survey the church for people who are able and willing to work with this ministry (see Appendix A).

2. Educate the church family as to what can and cannot be expected from this ministry.

3. Contact congregation and local community sources to discover individuals in need of a ramp.

4. Determine if the recipient owns or rents. If renting, obtain permission from owner to erect “temporary” ramp on premises.

5. Evaluate recipient’s financial situation to determine financial ability to pay.

6. Investigate local funding opportunities, or create a fund raising opportunity to pay for materials.

7. Do a site visit to determine the dimensions of the ramp.

8. Determine what services can be provided. Avoid taking on a project that requires more than your team can accomplish.

9. Determine from city or county officials if licensing or bonding is required. Determine what local building codes and permitted are applicable/required.

10. Complete contract for “loaned use” of ramp. Indicate clearly that ramp will be removed and recycled at another location when no longer of use to current recipient.

11. Provide training to volunteers.


13. Periodically evaluate the ministry. (See Evaluation Tool, Administrative Guide.)
RESOURCES

• Department for Social Services.

• Local area Agency on Aging.

• Cooperative Extension System

• Local county offices for building codes/ permits

• List of licensed, bonded workmen with excellent reputations for reasonable charges and dependability

• Habitat for Humanity (some affiliates provide renovations).

• Elder Homes/ similar agencies

• Area church youth groups offering assistance with construction.

• Veterans Administration (provides requirements for ramps in homes of veterans).
WHEEL CHAIR RAMP NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Basic Information

Name:                                                                                                                         Phone:
Address :

County:
Directions to Home:

1. Circle your age group:
   a. under 60          b. 60-64          c. 65-69          d. 70-74          e. 75-80          f. 80-above

Living Arrangements and Household Needs

2. Check all choices which describe your current living arrangements:
   ___ I live in my home with my spouse
   ___ I live in my home alone
   ___ I live in my home with a relative
   ___ I live in my home with a friend
   ___ I own my home
   ___ I rent my home

3. I cannot enter/ exit my home independently because I use
   ___ a wheel chair          ___ crutches
4. Primary Source of Income (employer, SSI) ____________________________________________

5. Secondary Sources of Income ___________________________________________________________________________

6. Total Gross Monthly Income ___________________________________________________________________________

7. Are you a Veteran?
   ____Yes     ____No

8. Do you receive assistance from Social Services or any Federal, State, or Local Agency?
   ____Yes     ____No

9. Do you have your own transportation?
   ____Yes     ____No
   If no, how do you get to your appointments, grocery store, church, etc.
   ____________________________________________________________________________________________

10. Are you able to enter/ exit your home?
    ____Yes     ____No
    If no, how long have you been unable to enter/ exit your home?
    __________________________________________________________________________________________

11. If you rent your home, do you give us permission to contact your landlord on your behalf in regards to obtaining permission to construct a ramp?
    ____Yes     ____No

12. Please provide your landlord’s contact information below:
    NAME: ____________________________________________
    ADDRESS: _______________________________________________________________________________
    _________________________________________________________________________________________
    PHONE: ______________________________________
Access Ramp– General Guidelines

1. These plans define a standardized– modular approach to the construction of handicap access ramps.
2. The slope of a ramp cannot exceed 1” of elevation for every 12” of run (1:12). One foot of ramp is required by ADA for every inch that a doorway is above grade.
   Exception: The maximum slope of 1:8 may be used for a 3” total change in elevation for existing sites id space limitations prohibit the use of a 1:12 slope or less. The maximum slope of 1:10 may be used for a 6” total change in elevation for existing sites id space limitations prohibit the use of a 1:12 slope or less.
3. Ramp length may not exceed 30’ without a 4’ minimum level section.
4. Ramp turnaround and platform cross slope may not exceed 1:50.
5. Ramps must be at least 36” wide between handrails. 46” is recommended.
6. There must be a platform at the top of a ramp that is a minimum of 5’ square. An existing porch may satisfy this requirement.
7. If a ramp is U shaped, there must be a turnaround platform at least 5’ wide.
8. Decking must be coated with an anti-sip paint or material.. (Spray or roll-on truck bed coating is useful for this requirement.)
9. Deck boards must be oriented as shown on the drawing provided to prevent the formation of puddles due to natural warping of the deck boards as they dry and age.
11. There must be a post at least every 6 feet.
12. Posts may sit on 5 1/2” square plates on grade of be buried or sit on concrete footings.
13. The top hand railing must be between 32” and 34” above the deck surface.
14. The top railing must be easy to grip or an additional handrail must be provided.
15. The bottom of the bottom railing must not be more than 4” above the deck surface.
16. Railings must extend the full length of the ramp unless the total rise of the ramp is 6” or less.
17. All nails, bolts and washers must be hot-dipped galvanized. Pressure treated chemicals on the wood will cause standard nails to weaken within six months. Galvanized is not the same as hot-dipped galvanized.
18. Screws must be ceramic coated deck screws. Square drive is preferred.
19. Metal brackets must be Simpson Strongtie Z-Max rated.
20. Flashing to the house must be rubber or copper, not aluminum.
21. Six-inch deck boards should be fastened with three nails or screws per stringer.
22. Six-inch headers should be fastened with three nails per stringer.
23. Ramp modules should be screwed to the posts using 3 1/2” screws in addition to the lag bolts used to hold the cross members.
24. Posts should be buried at least 2 feet in the ground if they do not sit on the top of the ground.
25. The first and last deck boards on modules should be installed after the ramp assembly is completed to provide access during installation. These boards are screwed, not nailed.
26. WARNING! Wear a dust mask and gloves when cutting pressure treated lumber.
27. WARNING! Wash hands before eating when cutting pressure treated lumber.
28. DISCLAIMER: While it is believed that these plans and guidelines meet standard building codes, the installer should check the provisions of local code.
29. IMPORTANT! Many localities require building permits for ramp construction.
30. NOTICE! Digging post holes may damage underground facilities such as gas, sewer, electric, etc. Contact the Underground Utility service to have utilities located before you dig. Allow several days for response.
This is a suggested process for ramp construction. This process is a suggestion from the Ramp Guys’ Wheelchair ramp Ministry program in Avoca, NY.

BASIC RAMP DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION

1. **SITE SURVEY**– Visit Location to Determine:
   A.) Height from ground to entry level.
   B.) Desired direction of ramp.
   C.) Available space. Required: One foot of ramp length for every one inch of elevation.
   D.) Observe location to determine possible obstructions (Trees, shrubs, utilities– you will be digging post holes.)
   E.) Request visit and marking from Miss Utility or similar organization that marks underground wires and cables.

2. **Determine the number of 4’ x 4’ and 4’ x 8’ frames.** Depending on the situation, you will always start with a 4’ x 4’ or a 4’ x 8’ level frame. If the door opens away from the slope of the ramp, a 4’ x 4’ frame is adequate. In other cases, use a 4’ x 8’ frame. A level frame will also be required each time the ramp changes direction.

3. **There are several basic configurations:**
   A.) Straight out and down (Sidewalk goes from porch to street).
   B.) To right or left (Sidewalk goes across front to driveway).
   C.) Down then turn right or left (Landing point is not inline with the doorway).
   D.) To right or left and then reverse directions (When there is not enough room in front of the house or a straight run of the desired length).

4. **Ordering Materials–** Once you have arrived at a design, make a list of materials needed. Use the “RAMP MATERIALS USED” chart to arrive at your list. Order at least one extra landscape timber, one extra 2’ x 4”, and one extra 1” x 4” kick board. You will probably have a large number of screws left over. Order 5 lbs of each length screw for each ramp. After about the fourth ramp, you will have enough left over to do a fifth ramp.

5. **Building the Frames–**
   A.) Cut Frame Members- Select two 2” x 6” x 8’ boards. Using a square, make and cut one end of each board. Mark off 96” on each board and cut them. (Boards will usually be 1/2” to 3/4” too long). Please note that the first sloping section will have one end of each board cut at a 5 degree angle. Any sloping section which attaches to a level section will have the side boards cut on this same angle.
   B.) Select another 2” x 6” x 8’ board. Square up both ends. Mark off 45-1/4” from each end. Cut on these marks.
   C.) Select a 2” x 4” x 8’ board. Square the ends, mark, and cut the same as the 2” x 6” x 8’ boards.
   D.) 4’ x 4’ frame pieces are cut in the same manner, except sides are 48” instead of 96”, and only on 2” x 6” x 45-1/4” cross piece is used.

6. **Assembling Frames–**
   A.) Refer to the sketch. The long boards go on the outside.
   B.) Be sure all the edges of all boards are flush with each other on the “top” edge. (the edge the plywood will be attached to). Be sure the “long edge” of any angle-cut side is facing the correct way (on top if the frame slopes down from a level frame or on the bottom is that frame slopes down into a level frame below it).
   C.) As each section is assembled, mark the end nearest the house with the proper section number (“1”, “2”, etc.). Be sure the number is written right side up when looking down from the top edge of the frame.
## RAMP MATERIAL USED

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>NR Required:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3/4&quot; Plywood Decking, Treated</td>
<td>1 sheet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2&quot; x 6&quot; x 8' Pressure Treated</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2&quot; x 4&quot; x 8' Pressure Treated</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2&quot; x 4&quot; x 8' Pressure Treated (Hand Rails)</td>
<td>2**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1&quot; x 4&quot; x 8' Pressure Treated (Kick Boards)</td>
<td>2**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4&quot; x 2.5&quot; x 8' Treated Landscape Timbers</td>
<td>4**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No. 2 Galvanized Deck Screws 2&quot; long</td>
<td>5 LBS.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Used to attach Decking and Kick Boards)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No. 2 Galvanized Deck Screws 3&quot; long</td>
<td>5 LBS.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Used to build and attach frames)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**NOT USED FOR LAST SECTION**

### TOOLS USED

- Skill Saw
- Framing Square
- Speed Square
- 9 to 12 Volt Cordless Drill
- Electric Drill
- Hammer
- 25 Foot Tape
- 24" Level
- Chalk Line
- Post Hole Digger
- Shovel
- Sharp Shooter
- Hand Saw
- Bow Saw
- Axe
Suggested Ramp Contract Format

The wheel chair ramp that will be constructed at (address):

__________________________________________________________

Is on loan from and is the property of (Name of organization):

__________________________________________________________

In the event that the resident / homeowner moves or is in no further need of the wheelchair ramp at the above address, the ramp will be dismantled and removed by the volunteers representing (Name of organization) to be reconstructed for other residents in need of a wheelchair ramp.

Construction and loan of the ramp was provided on (date)
For the primary use by (resident’s name).

__________________________________________________________

Residents signature

__________________________________________________________

Home owner Authorization

And will be maintained by; (circle one) (Name of organization) (OWNER)

__________________________________________________________

(representative of Volunteer Organization)
Design Styles for Ramp Construction.
Refer to Basic Ramp Design and Construction Guidelines, p.8.
Detail for Ramp Construction.
Refer to Basic Ramp Design and Construction Guidelines, p.8.
Rail/ Post Detail for Ramp Construction.
Refer to Basic Ramp Design and Construction Guidelines, p.8.
Modular Diagram for Ramp Construction.
Refer to Basic Ramp Design and Construction Guidelines, p.8.
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Diagram for Ramp Construction.
Refer to Basic Ramp Design and Construction Guidelines, p. 8.