

Focus

City Voices.

Photos and interviews by Stephanie Glaros

May is National Mobility Awareness Month. Is there anything you wish people who have full mobility knew about what it's like to not have full mobility?



Daniel Moriarity, Minneapolis

You wish people would pay more attention to you, because people don't seem to notice you until you're right up on 'em. And I'm always being accused of backing up without looking, and I didn't get that pair of eyes installed in the back of my head that I'm supposed to have when they brought the chair to me, you know?

... So people need to be more aware that we're on the street and we're out and about. I try to be polite to people. I try to excuse myself when I go around people and all that, and I try to be nice, but not everybody is ... I just wish people would just treat me like a regular human being instead of somebody different. That's all.



Krista Grosland, Minneapolis

I wish that people would recognize how difficult it can be sometimes to access buildings, especially the older buildings. And with all the loopholes that there are in ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990) law and different laws like that, it's really frustrating sometimes that you can't access a building. But you can't really get upset about it either, because the law says that it's OK for this building to not be accessible because it's so old, or only serves so many people, or only has so many employees, or whatever the loophole is that they're using.

For example, my dorm in college right now is accessible. I wanted an apartment, and I can't get an apartment because they're not accessible. ... Accessible apartments are generally more expensive, and to get on any kind of public housing or anything that might be based on your income takes years. And years. And years (laughs). Some waiting lists are three to five years long to get into typical housing. ... It's frustrating that so many things are not accessible and not required by law to be accessible. ... I do think that over time it will change, but like most things, it takes longer than any of us would like.



Nancie Litin, St. Paul

I don't think it's much different, just that it takes a little bit longer and you have to plan for that. Which none of us do (laughs) ... But you just have to try to pack more efficiency into the same amount of time.

Do you feel like people are ever impatient with you, or not understanding?

No. People are very accommodating I think. In fact, sometimes surprisingly so. You know, young, kind of gang-looking guys will stop and open the door for you. Yeah, people are very nice. Even when it's not necessary, but it's always nice for someone to feel good about helping someone else. And it's nice to be helped.