



For release: Immediately

Contact: *Josie Badger*
Ms. Wheelchair America 2012
(724) 944-0429
Mswheelchairamerica2012@gmail.com
www.mswheelchairamerica.org

Ms. Wheelchair America Crowns 2012 Title

(Grand Rapids, MI) The Ms. Wheelchair America Pageant, a non-profit advocacy and activism organization crowned its 2012 title to **Josie Badger, 27, of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania** on Saturday August 7, 2011, in Grand Rapids Michigan at the Amway Grand Hotel. The Pageant focuses on the accomplishments and achievements of women who utilize wheelchairs for their daily mobility.

The title of Ms. Wheelchair America carries the responsibility of being the official spokeswoman on behalf of the disability community across the nation.

Badger has had her disability since birth and is a full-time wheelchair user. Josie Badger has completed her coursework for her PhD in Healthcare Ethics at Duquesne University and is currently starting her dissertation. She completed graduate school for Rehabilitation Counseling at the University of Pittsburgh in April 2009 and is a Certified Rehabilitation Counselor. In May of 2007 she graduated summa cum laude from Geneva College, majoring in Disability Law and Advocacy and in 2003 graduated high school valedictorian. Josie works at the PEAL Center as Youth Coordinator for the State Implementation Grant, assisting youth in healthcare transition and leadership development. Josie additionally works for the ActNow grant, funded through the Pennsylvania Development Disabilities Council, creating materials for youth to assist them in presenting on issues important to young adults with disabilities. She has served as president and vice president of the National Youth Leadership Network. On the state level, Josie was a founding member and president of the Pennsylvania Youth Leadership Network. She works with Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh on the Family Forum and the Ethics Committee. Josie was named Glamour Magazine's 11th Top College Women of 2006.

Badger's platform is developing empowerment and leadership development of youth with disabilities.

As **Ms. Wheelchair America 2012**, Badger has numerous duties. These include promoting awareness of the need to eliminate architectural and attitudinal barriers, informing the able-bodied public of the achievements of the millions of people with disabilities across the nation, and assisting with the establishment of programs in all 50 states by promoting Ms. Wheelchair America. During her year-long reign, she will have the opportunity to travel visiting advocacy groups, making public appearances and conducting radio, print ad, and TV interviews.

The pageant is a competition based on advocacy, achievement, communication and presentation to select the most accomplished and articulate spokeswoman for persons with disabilities. The selected representative must be able to communicate both the needs and the accomplishments of her constituency to the general public, the business community and the legislature. To learn more about the national pageant visit www.mswheelchairamerica.org.