

Elderly woman gets new wheels

Felicia Skriver
News Editor

Bright sparks whiz past the safety glasses of student welders as they put the saw to the metal. The legs of the walker are clasped down while they saw it into two pieces. This project was a great act of community service, provided by the welding technology department last week.

"I want to emphasize that in the program, on occasion we do like to help the community out," said John Phelps, a welding technology instructor here at CCC. "I couldn't imagine how much it would cost somewhere else."

When 81 year-old Robbie Pappas could no longer maneuver around her apartment with the walker she had, she decided to call Clackamas with the project in mind.

"I was frustrated by not being able to move around my own apartment," said Pappas, longtime resident and educator of Clackamas County. "So it's just worked beautifully."

The project entailed bringing the width of the walker down to 12 inches and also adding a tray to set things on. The goal is to make it much narrower so that Pappas can maneuver more easily.

"Yeah, it is nice to give back to the community," said Travis Montminy, one of the welding technology students helping with the modification. "It's nice to be able to help someone who needs help."

Pappas has been more than satisfied with her new walker, getting around her house has been more simplistic because of the welding department.

"It's wonderful! Absolutely wonderful!" said Pappas. "If I did not have that walker today, I could not have gotten around today. I would like to compliment Travis too, because he modified it and put a tray on it so I can place things on it."

The welding department would like to emphasize that they do not take on all projects offered. They have been solicited a couple times; however



Brian Seale The Clackamas Print

Travis Montminy narrows the size of Robbie Pappas' walker so she can easily navigate her apartment. Pappas found her new walker "absolutely wonderful!" She was very pleased with the finished product.

they do not take on any and all projects.

Pappas has been an educator in Clackamas County for the

last 30 years, and she's glad to see that the community and education can go hand in hand.

"I taught at schools for

years," said Pappas, "and as a tax payer of Clackamas County I feel like my money is being used well at your college ... I

would also like to compliment John Phelps, because he was the most courteous when I came to pick the walker up."

Childcare for CCC parents

Emily Rask
Associate News Editor

When parents need a place to plop their kids while they plod away at class, the college has help available in spite of cuts to some of the services available in the past.

Clackamas Community College has been helping young parents for many years with childcare services. The Young Parent Program just ended after 20 years last June due to no grant funding and lack of enrollment.

Although the program is no longer active, the college still has a very strong early Head Start and a YMCA program to fill these important needs of families on campus.

One of three Early Head Start teachers for eight children,

Brian Kidwell explained how convenient it is for parents to have their children right by them as they attend school. He

said it almost feels as if they are on the same level as their kids.

"They have to be a student for it to be completely free. CCC students get first priority. We provide childcare to any mom on campus," said Kidwell. "There is a waiting list for the early Head Start program so when we select children for the program we select the neediest."

The YMCA Child Development Center offers another top notch affordable, childcare program that is flexible. Infants to 12 year olds get to learn and live a healthy lifestyle in a state licensed program.

Program director of the Clackamas YMCA, Kelly Skopil, said, "We have discounted rates for CCC students and faculty. Students can get very affordable rates to have their kids here."

Early Head Start works mainly with families that need help such as those with low income or ones with children that have special needs. The YMCA program works with families in our community. There are options at the college for all types of student parents.

According to their website, the YMCA is the largest nonprofit provider of after school childcare in

the nation. The nonprofit organization funds quality affordable childcare services for all. With 2,687 locations across the country serving 21 million people a year, the nonprofit is a national resource available locally to parents in need of affordable childcare.

The YMCA also offers studies in eight particular areas: literacy, mathematics, science, social studies, arts, technology, healthy habits, and social, moral, and spiritual development. The program focuses on helping children learn and develop their skills. They can show what interests them in these programs and then the teachers can work with them to learn more about their interests.

It is really simple for CCC students to get their children into these programs.

"CCC students can apply through ASG for financial aid childcare," said Skopil.

The Associated Student Government is in the Community Center next to the cafeteria in CC152

Both programs are located in the Family Resource Center building and are open Monday through Friday from nine to five.

Preview



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