

Local woman loves 'Clifford' – her new van

By Dell Richards
Special to the Land Park News

Colleen Montini was born with cerebral palsy, but that hasn't stopped the wheelchair using woman from having a full life that includes managing 24 hotel accounts for a website marketing company and recently moving to Sacramento. "I've always walked on crutches, but had the wheelchair for nine years now," said Montini.

Since the 43-year-old has had nearly a decade of buying wheelchairs and vans, she knows what she wants.

She no longer is willing to have a crane lift her motorized, 250 lb. wheelchair into the van like she first did. She wants something made for someone like her.

When she heard about a new vehicle created specifically for wheelchair-users from their feedback, she wanted to see it immediately. "I wanted something I could run the wheelchair into," said Montini.

Once she saw the MV-1 at an Abilities Expo, she went for it.



Photo: Dan Yarbrough

'Clifford' with Colleen Montini, left, and Linda Deavens, Paratransit Inc. CEO, on the Destinations Mobility sales lot.

Now "Clifford" – her red MV-1 – gets attention wherever she goes. "People are always asking what it is," said Montini.

Destinations Mobility was recently awarded the Northern California license for the MV-1 to begin selling them. "We are really proud to be part of this new venture," said Richard Rosebush, Destinations Mobility division manager.

Destinations Mobility is the

new wheelchair vehicle sales division from local 501(c)3 nonprofit Paratransit, Inc. The new division also is the first nonprofit dealer the MV-1 manufacturer, VPG, has worked with.

"We specifically targeted them," said Ed Kendzierski, VPG Regional Sales Manager. "Destinations Mobility and its parent company, Paratransit Inc.,

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A nonprofit, Destinations Mobility provides affordable wheelchair accessible vehicles. For more information, call (916) 868-6797 or visit our website at DestinationsMobility.com

A division of Paratransit, Inc.

Colleen Montini and 'Clifford'

have the caring and sensitivity that is essential to our industry."

"It's not just about buying a car, it's a process. Because it's not just transportation, it's really independence."

For Montini, having a van specially designed for her needs has really helped. "It's made a complete difference in my life," said Montini.

The MV-1 has a space for her wheelchair instead of a passenger seat, so she can lock in her wheelchair there and sit in the driver's seat. "There's no passenger seat in this vehicle; the wheelchair sits next to me," said Montini.

She also appreciates the hands-only driving controls, which were included as an add-on option. "I really wasn't aware of all the little touches until I started using them," said Montini. "It's amazing."

Located at 2501 Florin Road, the Destinations Mobility showroom is open Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturday, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

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"We are really proud to be part of this new venture." — *Richard Rosebush*

For more information, go to www.destinationsmobility.com.

Founded in 1978, Paratransit, Inc. provides transportation services to the elderly, individuals with disabilities, and related agencies in Sacramento County. For more information, go to www.paratransit.org.



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