

Meet Marcus



Marcus, who has physical disabilities cannot use a traditional computer mouse. Instead he has been using a Joystick Roller II with an on-screen keyboard to navigate and type on his computer. This technology is cumbersome as it requires Marcus to be connected to the computer by a wire. Since Marcus controls his wheelchair with his head using a sensor-driven head array, Arlene James with Adaptive Switch Laboratories (ASL) gave Marcus technology which allows him to control the mouse on the computer screen using the same head array with which he drives his wheelchair. Marcus is more independent because all he has to do is drive up to the computer and change modes on the navigator (which he sometimes refers to as his “gear shift”) from drive mode to mouse emulator mode.

With this switch his head array changes from controlling his driving functions to controlling the mouse on the computer screen without any connection to the computer. There is a learning curve with this technology, but just as Marcus has mastered driving his wheelchair, he will



master this new technology and be able to do more things quickly with greater freedom of movement.



Marcus is very excited about his new independence! On his first full day using this technology he announced that he was ready to be “disconnected” from the computer to go to lunch. We had to remind him that he is now wireless. He is free to drive up and drive away as he pleases! To this Marcus said “YES!!!!” with a HUGE smile on his face. Marcus is thankful for this technology and this new level of freedom.

To learn more about Ability Connection Texas, visit our website at www.abilityconnectiontexas.org. To give to support our mission to provide a full range of services for people with physical and intellectual disabilities as they strive to achieve their highest level of independence, [**donate to the Walk Roll Stroll event in your area!**](#)

Your support of Walk Roll Stroll and Ability Connection makes these stories possible. Join us today as we band together to ensure people of every ability have a more independent future!