

# Winamac company is national mobility leader

**Kevin B. McMahon**  
**Winamac; Pulaski County**  
**Executive Vice President, Sales,**  
**Marketing & Service, BraunAbility**



Simply put, Winamac-based BraunAbility's 1,000 employees provide mobility freedom to people all over the country.

They also pump dollars into Indiana's economy.

BraunAbility is a market leader in North America for the sale of wheelchair lifts that are installed on school buses, city buses, vans and even taxi cabs. For example, if you use a wheelchair and hail a cab in New York City, chances are good you'll use a BraunAbility ramp to get into the vehicle.

"It's going very well, and it's growing because the people of New York and society are saying we need to provide equal access to people," said Kevin B. McMahon, executive vice president of sales, marketing & service.

The wheelchair lift was invented more than 40 years ago by company founder, Ralph Braun, who has been called, "The Father of the Mobility Movement."

Diagnosed with muscular dystrophy at age six, Ralph began using a wheelchair at 13. He taught himself engineering and designed a battery-powered scooter, which caught the attention of others using wheelchairs, leading him to a part-time business filling orders for the scooters from his parents' garage.

He later designed the world's first wheelchair lift, installed in an old postal jeep, and in 1972, founded BraunAbility. Braun died in 2013, at the age of 72, and he left behind a successful business that continues his legacy.

"BraunAbility's roots are embedded in the idea of mobility and freedom. We believe people with disabilities can live like everyone else and be productive members of society," McMahon said.

The company continues to grow as government leaders recognize that people with disabilities should be able to participate fully.

"We've come a long way as a state and a nation," McMahon said.

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