

# **Duncan hopes invention helps many people with disabilities**

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According to the American Heart Association, stroke is the leading cause of severe, long-term disability.

In the U.S. there are about 600,000 new stroke victims and 200,000 recurrent stroke victims annually.

About 500,000 Americans are currently living with cerebral palsy.

Consumer Health Interactive estimates approximately 185,000 people in the U.S. undergo amputation due to disease or injury.

Michael Duncan of Evenpar Enterprises believes the Lend-a-Hand assistant device will help people with these and similar conditions regain a quality of life that will allow them greater independence and the ability to participate in many of the activities they enjoyed before.

Lend-a-Hand fits on the forearm. The device is versatile and can be worn on either the good arm or the injured arm. Placing the device on the good arm the user can slide a broom handle into the Lend-a-Hand sleeve for greater control and leverage. Placed on the injured arm, Lend-a-Hand acts as a second hand securely holding whatever tool the user is working with, he said.

At some point Duncan said his company will probably add an accessory line for Lend-a-Hand. In the meantime, the Lake City man suggests people can accessorize using easy-to-find items such as golf grips. The golf grip stays firmly in the Lend-a-Hand sleeve until the user removes it.

Lend-a-Hand, originally designed for golfing, can help people be independent. Duncan added a colored stripe at the edge of the sleeve so sight-impaired users can more easily find the opening.

"This device will help people like me get their life back," said stroke victim Sue Seeger, who inspired Duncan to create the Lend-a-Hand assistant device.