

## Reaching People with Disabilities through Healthy Communities

**Michael R. Smith, Mayor of City of Salamanca**

### **This project has impacted my life because:**

The City of Salamanca is the poorest in New York State. With funds from the NACDD grant, we have been able to fund infrastructure changes such as curb cuts for our disabled residents, increasing their ability to roll or walk to community resources, such as our Farmers Market.

### **The most influential policy, system, or environmental change of this project to me was:**

The environmental changes that were made in the City of Salamanca included curb cuts, which I never before considered as a necessity. Now I realize that all residents need access to safe sidewalks no matter what their mode of transportation is.

### **As a result of this, I/we:**

As Mayor and a former Council Member, I have prioritized spending available resources on replacing sidewalk blocks, increasing our curb cuts, and providing a safe space for all residents to enjoy our city's amenities.

### **What was the emotional connection, self-efficacy, or "ah-ha" moment for this project?**

My "ah-ha" moment was seeing residents in power wheelchairs and scooters in the street because there either wasn't a curb cut nearby or the sidewalks were in such disrepair that they couldn't ride safely on them.

*Please note that testimonials may be edited for clarity by the NACDD Communications Department.*