

## MobilityWorks Acquires Nor-Cal Mobility, Adding Four Adaptive Vehicle Showrooms and Rental Centers in Central and Northern California

## *Expansion to increase modified vehicle sales for wheelchair accessibility in Chico, Fresno, Sacramento, and San Francisco Markets.*

Akron, Ohio (<u>PRWEB</u>) January 08, 2013 -- MobilityWorks, the leading retailer of adaptive vehicles in the United States, has announced the acquisition of assets of Nor-Cal Mobility in Chico, CA. Nor-Cal Mobility has four showroom locations in California, including Chico, Fresno, Sacramento and Burlingame near San Francisco. MobilityWorks will now have 24 consumer store locations nationwide, in addition to its Commercial Division which provides ambulette and custom fleet vans nationwide.

"Nor-Cal Mobility has had tremendous success due to its strong focus on customer service. They match up well with our core values," said Bill Koeblitz, MobilityWorks CEO/President. Nor-Cal Mobility was started in 1982 by owner Ken Karasinski and is based in Chico, CA. Nor-Cal Vans, a sister company that modifies Ford E-Series full-size vans for commercial use is not part of the acquisition. It will continue to be operated by Mr. Karasinski.

The two companies share common goals as leaders in the industry, including quality service, a large of selection of vehicle options and knowledgeable consultants that address the individual needs of each client. MobilityWorks had already established a store location in Santa Clara, but was looking for new opportunities in the area. "The acquisition strengthens our leadership position in central and northern California," added Koeblitz. Nor-Cal Mobility will be the company's third acquisition in a 12-month span. They had also acquired Handicapped Driver Services (aka HDS Vans & Mobility, Marietta, GA) in 2012 with five southeastern locations and Monmouth Vans Access & Mobility in Farmingdale, New Jersey.

Mr. Karasinski praised his staff for their professionalism and hard work. "The process has gone much smoother than I even anticipated," said Karasinski, noting that the MobilityWorks transition team of CFO Gerhard Schmidt and VP of Store Operations Eric Mansfield "has been extremely impressive." Ken indicated that his business has been like a family member, and that he watched it grow up like a child during the past 28 years: "I know that Nor-Cal Mobility's clients will be well taken care of in the future." Mr. Karasinski also noted that the Nor-Cal employees are excited about the new opportunities that are in front of them. Nor-Cal Controller Kathi Neel, who has been instrumental in the transition, will become Regional Manager.

## About MobilityWorks

The Akron-based Inc 500 company employs more than 350 full-time employees throughout the country in 24 showroom centers in 12 states. The MobilityWorks Commercial Division is Ford Motor Company's largest mobility up fitter in the commercial van industry that manufactures non-emergency transportation vehicles. In addition to new and used wheelchair vans for sale, all of MobilityWorks' store locations offer vans for rent, mechanical service, scooter lifts, wheelchair lifts, hand controls and financing. For additional information about MobilityWorks, go to <a href="http://www.mobilityworks.com">http://www.mobilityworks.com</a>.

## About Nor-Cal

From its headquarters in Chico California, Nor-Cal Mobility, Inc. (NCM) has served as a retail outlet of mobility vans for the past 30 years. They now have four consumer van showroom locations in the cities of Chico, Fresno, Sacramento and Burlingame CA. In the latter part of 2003, Nor-Cal Vans, Inc. (NCV) was



formed by owner Ken Karasinski as a sister corporation to NCM in order to concentrate on the modifications of full-sized Ford E-Series vans. Nor-Cal Vans is a Ford Motor Company bailment pool member and distributes modified vehicles to mobility dealers nationwide. Nor-Cal Vans will continue to operate under the ownership of Mr. Karasinski. For additional information go to <u>http://www.nor-calvans.com</u>



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