



This was the official shirt from my first action – Baltimore, Spring '95. By counting the cities on the sleeves in reverse, you can see that the first ADAPT action in its post-ADA-passage era was in Atlanta, Fall '90. The ADA was signed in July '90, so you can tell ... these guys never rest! They went right from their initial version of ADAPT (American Disabled for Accessible Public Transit), which began in '83, into their next campaign of ADAPT (American Disabled for Attendant Programs Today).

Since our taping I've regretted I did not say this:

The one thing I admire ADAPT for most is their insight, or foresight. As soon as the organization began in Denver, with 17 people who shared Wade Blank's vision of using funds reserved for nursing homes to pay for in-home options, that was their vision – to end the institutional bias within Medicaid, so that the guarantee was not that at the very least every eligible applicant could get a bed in a nursing home, but that every person would have the choice of where they'd prefer to receive the services they qualify for.

The foresight is in that they recognized right from the beginning that if the fight was easily won, and people who were locked up in institutions were returned to the community, the people they were trying to liberate would actually be extremely stranded. This is primarily because there were no lifts on buses back then (much less the door-to-door para-transit service that most of us rely heavily upon, and which is a requirement under the ADA for every public transit authority), but extends also to all the other ways that the ADA made the nation accessible to people with disabilities.

So, even though their primary focus was getting people out of nursing homes, ADAPT first turned their attention to public transit and fought for seven years for more basic civil rights legislation, which eventually resulted in the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. And then, immediately, they turned their focus to a more direct fight for the ultimate goal: the end of forced institutionalization under Medicaid.





Photos from  
ADAPT 2003  
March



## More ADAPT Direct Action Photos







ADAPT Leadership Training



Video Taping Project





"Clark Goodrich, of Kentwood [Michigan], rides his wheelchair on 29th Street to work on Friday. Goodrich has to ride in the street because there are no sidewalks on a portion of the road." ~ Joel Hawksley, The Grand Rapids Press ... because we did not yet have sidewalks on 28th street.

"Disability Advocates as well as representatives from the community met today with Senator David Hildebrand to urge him to vote yes on Senate Bill 4714 to Expand Medicaid coverage to an additional 400,000 in Michigan. Advocates indicated that people who depend on personal caregivers frequently face inconsistent care because the caregivers can't afford to continue working without health care coverage. Also young and middle aged working people are frequently working at jobs with no health benefits.

