



Livable for a Lifetime

*Applying Universal Design  
in homes & communities*

## L4L News Brief – February 2013

**Livable for a Lifetime** → [www.LivableForALifetime.org](http://www.LivableForALifetime.org)

Livable for a Lifetime (L4L) advocates for the inclusion of universal design features in our homes, businesses and communities. Visit the website to learn more.

### **Incentives for Universal Design:**

#### **State Tax Credits and Charlottesville Refunds**

The Virginia Livable Home Tax Credit (LHTC) program is designed to improve accessibility and universal visitability in residential units by providing state tax credits for the purchase of new units or the retrofitting of existing units. Tax credits are available for up to \$5,000 for the purchase/construction of a new accessible residence and up to 50 percent for the cost of retrofitting existing units, not to exceed \$5,000. Tax credits are available to Virginia homeowners and licensed contractors.

**Deadline to apply is February 28<sup>th</sup> 2013 for 2012 tax returns.** <http://www.dhcd.virginia.gov/index.php/housing-programs-and-assistance/tax-credit-programs/livable-homes-tax-credit.html>.

**Design for Life Cville** is the City of Charlottesville's voluntary certification and permit fee refund program for accessible housing. The program defines guidelines for visitable and livable homes and offers 25% to 50% refunds of permit fees for new construction or renovation depending upon features incorporated. The Design for Life Cville guidelines for visit-ability and live-ability incorporate design features such as a no step entrance, making it easier and safer to bring in a baby stroller, move in large furniture, accommodate a person living with a temporary or permanent disability, accommodate friends or relatives who have mobility limitations, and ultimately will help people age in place. <http://www.charlottesville.org/index.aspx?page=3258>



#### **Universal Design Educational Display**

L4L and the Jefferson Area Disability Services Board (DSB) developed a display on Universal Design, used as an educational booth at the Blue Ridge Home Builders Association's Home and Garden Festival in April 2012. The display emphasizes the comfort, ease and hospitality of integrating Universal Design features into a home, such as wide doors providing ease of delivery of large items and access to family and friends who use strollers, walkers or wheelchairs. Subsequent to the Home and Garden Festival, the display was put up at the Albemarle County Office Building for August and September, moved to the Albemarle County Office Building on McIntire for October and November, and is now located at the Charlottesville Regional Airport through February.



#### **L4L and JABA featured in Older Dominion Partnership Best Practices**

The state-wide Older Dominion Partnership is highlighting best practices for Age Wave planning in its e-News, most recently featuring L4L and JABA <http://www.olderdominion.org/documents/ODP-news-011513.htm>.

P.O. Box 1505 ■ Charlottesville, Virginia ■ 22902-1505

*Designing homes and communities to be usable by all people regardless of ability or age.*