

Ralph Braun



Ralph Braun, Founder and CEO of the Braun Corporation, a leading global manufacturer of mobility products, was an incredible man who threw aside his limitations and used his skills and creativity to build a better life for others. Rightfully described as the ‘Father of mobility movement’, Ralph has left behind permanent legacy in the mobility community.

Born in 1940, Ralph was only seven years old when he was diagnosed with Spinal Muscular Atrophy, a rare degenerative condition that confined him to a wheelchair for life. Yet the budding entrepreneur in him refused to be led down by his disability, and supported by his father went on to engineer the world’s first motorized scooter for him. This was a huge success for young Ralph, for whom the scooter was a reflection of his freedom and his curt response to the restrictions that

the society imposed on people with physical limitations. Later when the manufacturing plant, where he worked as a Quality Control Manager moved to a distant location, he revamped an old Jeep mail truck with a hydraulic tailgate lift that operated by hand controls, to travel to work.

This was just the beginning of his successful career! In 1963, Ralph started a Save-A-Step, a company manufacturing motorized scooters. Later he renamed his company to Braun Corporation, which introduced ‘Entervan’, a totally accessible minivan, based on a Dodge Caravan in 1991. Braun Corporation went on to purchase a company that built wheelchair platform lifts and a manufacturer for Toyota Sienna wheelchair accessible minivans. He adopted the brand name BraunAbility in 2006.

What started as a part-time business, that Ralph ran from his parents’ garage eventually grew into an international corporation with over 800 employees. Today the Braun Corporation is the worldwide leader of wheelchair accessible vehicles and wheelchair lifts in the mobility industry.

Ralph Braun was honored as a ‘Champion of Change’ for leading education and employment efforts in science, technology, engineering and math for Americans with disabilities. He died in 2013 leaving behind a wife and five adult children.

Throughout his life, Ralph used his disability for good, putting his skills and ingenuity to enhance and revolutionize the lives of millions around the world through his mobility business.