

MAKING A DIFFERENCE ONE PATIENT AT A TIME

Realizing Her College Dream

How a Hoyer[®] Advance lift, UltraCare[®] XT bed frame and Dermafloat[®] mattress enabled Emily to live on campus



University-bound and eager to learn, Emily Shanahan had three unique but important items on her college shopping list: a powered floor lift, an adjustable bed and a therapy mattress system.

“There are so many things I get to participate in. Having a lift means, yeah, I can leave the house.” - EMILY SHANAHAN, COLLEGE GRADUATE

Differently enabled (as Emily appropriately describes herself) and in a wheelchair due to cerebral palsy, Emily had used a manual floor lift for years with the assistance of her family and caregivers. While it provided tremendous help, the lift needed to be manually pumped and guided at the same time, making it less than ideal for use in public restrooms when only one caregiver was available. With an on-campus lifestyle quickly approaching, a powered floor lift that ascended with the simple push of a button would increase safety and practicality, allow Emily to use the restroom with ease between classes and activities, and give her the security she needed to leave home.

SOLUTION

While looking through a magazine, Emily’s mom, Barb Shanahan, saw a power lift that was foldable. The Hoyer[®] Advance was their answer, and once it was easily placed in Emily’s van, she no longer had to worry how she’d use a public restroom.

“The lift opened a lot of doors and a lot of adventure,” Barb explained. “It’s life-giving.”

Emily also required an adjustable bed frame with a therapeutic support surface. Her family had one in their home, but she required a second so she could live on campus and also return home for overnight visits on weekends. Again, Emily and her family found a solution from Joerns Healthcare.

“The UltraCare® XT bed and Dermafloat® APL (alternating pressure/low air loss) mattress enabled me to sleep comfortably at night, to have skin integrity and be fully functional for the day ahead,” Emily said. “It sounds simple, but the quality sleep made me more productive and less likely to become ill.”

Sleep and skin integrity weren’t the only benefits of her new bed. Emily and her caregivers appreciated the ergonomics as well. “The bed was easier for me to get in and out of,” Emily said, “and when my hip was really hurting before my surgery in my senior year, my bed was the most comfortable place to be.”

Together, Emily’s lift, bed and mattress enabled her to realize her dream: living independently on campus. Not only did Emily achieve that dream, she achieved much more. With continued help from our portable power Hoyer lifts, she interned with a non-profit 2000+ miles from college, attended youth leadership conferences in New York City and Washington D. C., and even traveled to the White House to meet President George W. Bush.

“There are so many things I get to participate in,” Emily said. “Having a lift means, yeah, I *can* leave the house.”

Today, Emily continues to be active—volunteering and running a non-profit for people navigating life’s journey with a differently enabled family member.

“Emily’s equipment allows her to be out in the community and to give back,” Barb said. “It positions Emily for success and literally gives her a lift every day.”