

Since birth, Daniel has had many special needs and requires high degree of special care and close supervision. After he developed a spinal cord disease at the age of 22, he was no longer able to walk and is confined to a wheelchair. His medical needs increased significantly and we were no longer able to care for him at home.

After 5 months in the hospital, we were lucky to secure residential and day hab placement for Daniel at CP Rochester. Their program was exactly what we were looking for to further promote Daniel's independence, reinforce his daily living and social skills as well as to get the frequent therapy he needs.

A year ago, Daniel had laminectomy surgery; which decreases compression on the spinal cord, hoping to increase his mobility. Several months after the surgery, and with continued physical therapy, occasionally Daniel is now able to bear some of his own weight! His physical therapist is continuing to focus on strengthening his legs and improve his balance.

CP Rochester offers a wide variety of opportunities; including community outings, volunteer opportunities, computer skills and work experience which have greatly enhanced Daniel's self esteem, increased his social skills and speech abilities. He frequently calls home to tell us about an outing, a new friend or just about anything else he wants to share with us. We've noticed a significant improvement in his vocabulary and he's much more willing to participate in discussions. He's also learned to advocate for himself by letting the staff know when he's tired, when he's thirsty or what he'd like to eat (usually pizza!).

Daniel is enthusiastic about learning and the staff is excellent at providing creative tools for his success. He is constantly being challenged and is learning about all types of things everyday; whether it be current events, nutrition, money, computers, health, friendships, animals or helping others. This program has given Daniel assurance that he's not only a member of our family, but belongs to another caring family at CP Rochester.

As a parent of a young man with special needs, we are grateful for the opportunities available to him and we're proud of his accomplishments. The services offered at CP Rochester are vital to the health and well being of many people like Daniel.