

# MEET AMY



Hi I'm Amy. Before I came to New Horizons I was like any other 17 year old until I was injured. My mom worked at the Shelton school with physically challenged students. She knew it was critical for me to have my independence and she wanted to make sure this part of my life was settled in case something happened to her. When I was 28 I lost my mom. By then I had already settled into my new home here at New Horizons.

I moved to New Horizons Village when I was 20 years old. Before moving here I saw so many people give up on their independence and recovery; children and adults who had given up. I tried to help them. I would invite them to do social things with me like going to the movies. I knew I couldn't give up and I wanted to be as social and as independent as possible.

When I first moved to New Horizons Village I had a double unit and then in 1998 I got my own apartment. I'm an avid cross-stitcher and my apartment is full

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of my framed work. I love my home here at New Horizons Village. I'm very proud of it and how I can be creative with my decorating. Living here at New Horizons Village, I can leave and go places when I want to. They help me with my mobility and independence. But if you saw how beautiful my home is you'd see why I love to be at home!

Since I've been at New Horizons Village I've had awesome PCA's. PCAs are Personal Care Attendants. They help me with the day to day things that I can't manage myself. I feel strongly that I'm not their boss and they aren't employees. We work together as a team. If I need it, New Horizons Village has a backup PCA system. This is one of the ways the team at New Horizons helps me to keep my independence.

It's funny how people react to you when you're in a wheelchair. One woman I know would ask me "Do you remember me?" every time I saw her. She must have believed that since I was in a wheelchair it affected my mind and memory. Once my best friends 2 boys were with me at the mall. They ran up to this guy in a wheelchair and said "Nice wheels! My Auntie Amy has a chair just like it!" It was great! It made me feel the boys could identify with me. It would be great if everyone could see me like this. Just their Aunt Amy. The same as everyone else.