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Carol's Truck Adaption

by Mary Smith



This past few weeks Carol and her dad have been out looking for a vehicle for her to drive with the proper adaptive equipment she would need to be able to drive it herself. Independence



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is what all parents want for their children. This is the goal when we raise our children. Happy, healthy and Independent, well two out of three isn't bad, eh?

What a schooling we all got these past few weeks. We worked with Ernie and Gerald from ADE Adaptive Disability Equipment Industries. They helped us figure out what type of vehicle would work best for Carol. They decided on a Ford Ranger which is a smaller truck.



And of course Carol picked out a red one! The fully powered Bruno Outrider lift is operated by a remote control which Carol will use from the drivers' side. A seat cushion and petal extensions are custom made to fit Carol's height and leg length. A small box is made for her feet to rest on so that her legs aren't dangling. Two hand rails are installed to help her navigate into the driver's seat.

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Carol recently received a new power wheelchair and ADE is installing a device that hooks the wheelchair onto the power lift with a locking pin to hold it in place. We will also be pur-



chasing a canvas cover to use for rainy days. The Outrider is weather proof but her wheelchair isn't especially the joy stick which needs to be protected from any water.

Getting her driver's license was another story altogether. Getting her doctor to sign off on a couple of forms from the Department of Motor Vehicle was a process. It's kind of a catch 22 with equipping a vehicle for her as well as taking a road test and you can't do without the other. But with all said and done we finally got there.



This entire process wasn't easy but necessary. Like I mentioned above every parent wants to instill complete independence and an ability to go and enjoy life to its fullest. Now, Carol can drive herself to college.