

Inspiring Lives

26 year old Rapheal lives in a house in Detroit with two roommates. Rapheal came to MORC about two years ago from a previous provider and almost immediately, one of the biggest needs that emerged was a wheelchair ramp for his home.

The previous ramp that was on Rapheal's house did not have rails. It was in poor condition and his wheelchair would constantly slip when using it. It was a constant safety risk for both Raphael and the staff assisting him.

The lack of a safe and proper ramp also hindered Raphael's independence. "I could not go outside my house by myself. I had to have staff assist me all the time to keep me from sliding down the ramp," he says. "I also really like to sit out on my porch and was not able to do that by myself because it wasn't safe."

The process to obtain a new ramp was long and took almost two years. Rapheal's Support Coordinator, Jeff Bellairs, described the process, "We had to get denied by insurance, obtain three quotes, exhaust three community resources, work with his care team for scripts and letters of medical necessity, work with DWIHN for the authorization and to amend his plan to reflect the ramp, work with the HAB Waiver department, coordinate with the ramp construction company, and work with his landlord.

Even after they finally got all the approvals and had the green light to build the ramp, they then ran into construction delays due to supply chain shortages from COVID. National Seating and Mobility was kind enough to keep their original quote to build the ramp even though the cost likely would have increased had they redone it.

Jeff adds, "Rapheal was there the entire time to get anything we needed from him along the way and to advocate for himself."

Having the new ramp has made a big difference in Rapheal's life. "I have more independence now," he says. "I am able to go out more now and sit on my porch without assistance."

"I would like to give a big thank you to MORC because without this company, the ramp would not be possible," Rapheal adds. "I am very much appreciative and want to say thank you to the supervisors and again to Jeff."

