



Meet Crystal A Community "Change" Recipient

she will be able to go a long way with the right equipment. What she needs most is a device that will support her while allowing her to stand and regain strength in her muscles. The device that will best help her is called an EasyStand Adult Standing Frame with Glider. The EasyStand will support her, keep her posture correct and will not only allow her to stand but will move her legs as if she were walking.

The EasyStand costs \$7,500 and even though it will help her learn to walk, medical assistance has decided it is not a necessary item for Crystal to have. Patricia heard about

It was a beautiful September morning when I walked into Crystal Shank's home. I noticed right away that the home is nice and bright. Crystal's parents, Randall and Patricia, are exceptionally friendly – you could tell this house is filled with love.

Crystal was sitting at the kitchen table working on word puzzles while waiting for me. After meeting Mom and Dad, I said, "You must be Crystal." With a huge smile on her face she answered, "Yes, it's nice to meet you."

Patricia then explained how excited she was that Crystal could talk to me and do word puzzles - that she could sit at the kitchen table. Crystal is 23 years old. You see, on December 23, 2006, Crystal was in a car accident. It changed her life forever and it changed her parent's lives forever.

After the accident, when Crystal was well enough to enter rehab, her arms were curled in toward her chest, her hands were in fists and she had a feeding tube. She did not move much and couldn't speak. She spent 11 months at the Clearview Long Term Rehabilitation Center in Juneau WI. Today she can talk, feed herself, wash her face, brush her hair and do math problems. Patricia stated, "She is always making some progress but it seems like every 4-6 weeks she will make a dramatic change for the better."

Randall and Patricia spent a year of their lives staying with Crystal throughout her hospital stay and rehab. When she was ready to come home they decided remodeling their house to accommodate Crystal's needs just wasn't going to work so they sold their home at Chute Pond and moved to Oconto Falls where the home they found was more adaptable to Crystal's needs and was closer to doctors and physical therapy.

Crystal's physical therapist says that without a doubt

Community "Change" and submitted a grant application. Included in that application was a letter from her physical therapist stating that this piece of equipment will be instrumental in Crystal's recovery.

The Community "Change" board thought this was an excellent use of Community "Change" money which is provided through donations from OEC members. Crystal was awarded \$750. She and her parents are extremely grateful to Community "Change". They continue to look for other funding sources and have opened an account at Citizens Bank in Suring to accept donations toward this equipment. Because Crystal is getting government assistance, the account must be in her mother's name. If you would like to make a donation to help Crystal get an EasyStand Adult Standing Frame, send it to:

Patricia Shank

Medical equipment for Crystal Shank

Citizens Bank

725 E Main St

Suring WI 54174



Crystal with her parents, Patricia and Randall Shank.