

Expanding Housing Options

CATHY AND MARIA'S STORY

Cathy and Maria became friends in September 2012. The ladies took the next few months to know each other by going out and doing different activities together. Cathy had invited Maria over for meals and movies. Their friendship has blossomed ever since. The ladies became housemates in February 2013.



It was Cathy's vision to maintain her independence in her home and to find a compatible housemate. Cathy has a walker and a wheelchair for use with her mobility. She uses a walker in the community or in the home for support. It is important for Cathy to have a roll-in shower in her home or apartment. She is unable to access a typical (tub) shower due to her mobility. It was also important to Cathy to have a bathroom in her bedroom with a larger bedroom.

Maria lived in her natural home with her family until 2011 when her father was no longer able to care for her. She moved into a group home at that time. It was not long until Maria's team began identifying some of her strengths and felt that she would be better suited for a home that

allows her to develop and become as independent as possible. In February 2013 Maria and Cathy became housemates.

Cathy lived in her previous home for 10-years. Maria and Cathy decided this home was not what they wanted in a home. With rent and high utilities the ladies were spending 50% of their monthly income on housing alone. After multiple requests of the landlord to repair and update the unit to no avail their team decided to begin searching for better housing alternatives for the ladies.

The Community Living Coordinator at Springfield Regional Office referred the ladies to a newly developed affordable housing project in Springfield that was just completed and taking referrals for units with various universal design features. The ARC of the Ozarks Program Supervisor completed the referral and application process and Cathy and Maria were able to move in to their new home on August 28th 2013.

Maria and Cathy love their new home! It meets their needs and they got some of their wishes too. Cathy has a beautiful bigger bedroom with her own bathroom equipped with a spacious roll-in shower with many adaptable features. The lower rent and reduced utility cost created a significant savings for these ladies. The total saving of \$270 = \$135 each per month. Both ladies will have more discretionary income at the end of the month to spend how they wish. These homes are versatile to their needs; they are able to use the space in every room. All of this in an affordable home!

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