

Wishes 4 Me
August 2006
Gwinnett Cares

To many physically disabled adults, an independent lifestyle requires more than wheelchair accessible ramps and widened doorways. Independence means having as many of the same responsibilities, concerns and options, on a daily basis, as their able-bodied counterparts do. Since having a handicap often involves financial, as well as physical dependence, these adults have few, if any, options but to live with a caregiver. The "Wishes 4 Me Foundation", a nonprofit organization, is making wheelchair accessible modifications to a three-bedroom residence in Lawrenceville to accommodate three disabled adults.

For Becca Van Schoick, a 24-year-old Athens-area resident with Friedreich's Ataxia, living safely on her own would give her a new sense of independence. "As an adult, no one really wants to live at home. But we are not all fortunate enough to have the option of living on our own. So the Wishes 4 Me Foundation offers an excellent opportunity for people in my situation to experience normalcy." Van Schoick's friend, Robin, of Lawrenceville, another adult with Friedreich's Ataxia, hopes to live in the recently purchased residence as soon as the many modifications are completed.

Lynn Robinette, a Lawrenceville resident and Robin's mother, is the founder of the Wishes 4 Me Foundation. Robinette recognizes that it will take a united effort make the accommodations necessary to make life as comfortable as possible for disabled adults. Robinette, therefore, is asking for volunteer support to help rewire and re-ventilate the house, as well as to widen doorways, lower outlets and light switches, install a roll-in shower and make many other adjustments. In addition, Robinette is seeking the services of affordable contractors to help with modifications.

If you or your group is interested in providing physical or financial assistance to the "Wishes 4 Me Foundation," please contact Lynn Robinette at 770-982-0275 (office), 678-362-7379 (cell) or Lynn.Robinette@wishes4me.org. Donations may also be made online at www.wishes4me.org. Wishes 4 Me would also like to thank to all of those who have already committed to be a part of the foundation's vision.