

# VERTICAL MANAGEMENT GIVES BACK

The Home Builders Foundation (HBF) has been on a mission to build independence, provide opportunities, and elevate lives for individuals and families with disabilities. One such story that truly highlights their work is the recent remodel project for Ciara, a 11-year-old girl who was born in Haiti with leg and feet deformities. After being adopted by the Backus family and undergoing leg amputations based on U.S. medical advice, Ciara now uses prosthetics and a wheelchair to navigate her daily life. As she grows, her need for independence only increases, and HBF stepped in to help make her home more accessible. We spoke with Ciara's family to learn more about their experience with HBF and how this remodel has impacted their lives.



Ciara Age 11

## Speaking with Ciara's Father:

*How did you first hear about HBF?*

**Ciara's Father:** We actually had a neighbor who told us about it. She came over one day and noticed that Ciara was coming in and out of the house with help. She mentioned, "Hey, did you know about HBF?" and that's how we got connected.

*Can you describe how this remodel project has impacted your daily life and Ciara's?*

**Ciara's Father:** Oh, it's been fantastic. Ciara can now use the bathroom completely on her own from her wheelchair. Before the project, she couldn't even get her wheelchair into the bathroom because the door was too narrow. We had a typical sink vanity with a cabinet underneath, so even if she got her wheelchair in there, she couldn't access the sink. Now, she can get in and out of the bathroom, brush her teeth, wash her hands, and go into the shower—all on her own. It has made her so much more independent, which is incredible for her.

HOME BUILDERS  
FOUNDATION



As the owner of Vertical Management Group and a proud member of the HBF, being able to create a wheelchair-accessible bathroom and ramp for Ciara, an amazing 11-year-old girl, was a deeply rewarding experience. Seeing her smile and knowing that we've made a real difference in her daily life fills us with immense pride. The project came together beautifully due to my great team, and it's moments like these that remind us why we do what we do. Giving back to our community and helping to enhance Ciara's independence is not just fulfilling—it's truly heartwarming.

-Jason Hansen



*What are Ciara's favorite features of the remodel?*

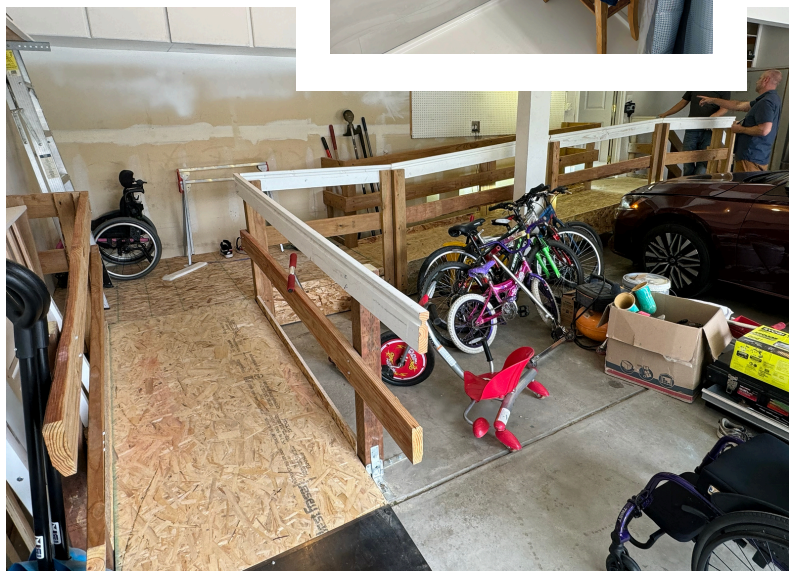
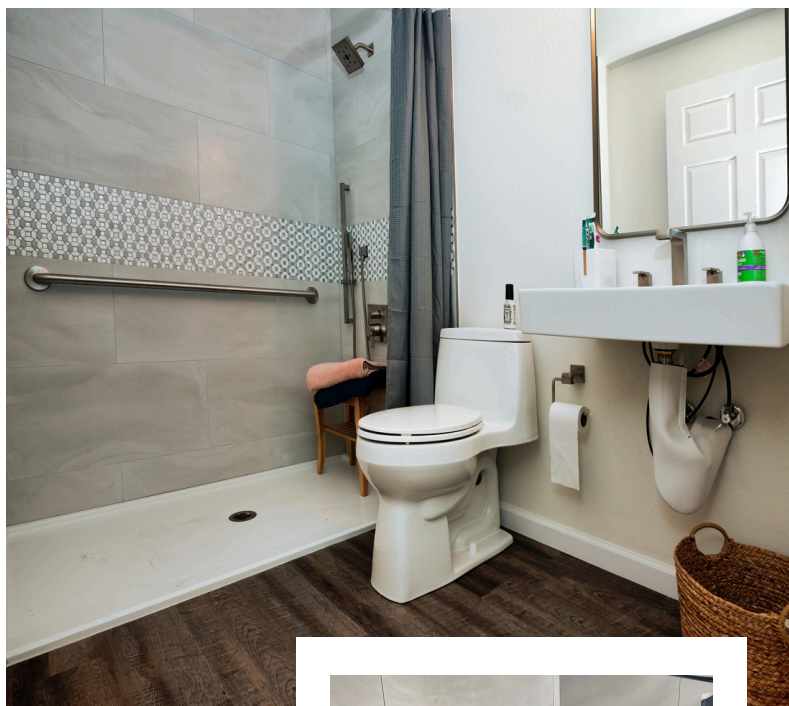
*Ciara's Father:* Oh, sure. I think her favorite modifications are the widened door and the floating sink, which is attached to the wall with nothing underneath it. The shower is definitely a highlight for her too—she absolutely loves it.

*How did the remodel process unfold for your family?*

*Ciara's Father:* It was great overall. The Home Builders Foundation team came out and scoped out the project, letting us know what to expect. They were very good at communicating where they were going to work next and what we would need to do. The demolition phase was handled carefully, with an effort to keep the dust down, and after that, everything was very organized. They made it as smooth as possible for us, which we really appreciated.

*How has this experience changed your perspective on the importance of accessibility?*

*Ciara's Father:* It's definitely opened my eyes to just how crucial accessibility is for everyone with mobility issues. Making changes to make spaces more accessible can significantly improve someone's life. We often take for granted simple things like walking to and from the bathroom or bedroom. This experience has shown me how important it is to make accessibility a reality for those who need it.



  
**Home**  
BUILDERS  
FOUNDATION  
*Building Independence.  
Elevating Lives.*

HBF would like to extend a huge thank you to our sponsors to help make this all possible.

