

# Jennifer - Oceana County



Whether a person realizes it or not there is a time in his or her life they'll have a great need that they don't expect. That need was handed to me, May 27th, 1990.

Hello, I'm Jennifer. I hail from Hart MI, the only city in Oceana County. On that day, my life was impacted by a single motor vehicle accident that resulted in me having needs (not neediness) ever since. The vehicle that I was in as a passenger left the highway, I was thrown out of it, and I sustained serious injuries. These injuries included a spinal cord injury that left me paralyzed from the mid-chest, down. Thankfully my friend who was driving walked away with minor injuries. Although she did, she may still have emotional scars.

Ever since then I've lived this life using a wheelchair for mobility. I spent nine days in the acute care to begin the healing of my injuries. Then nine weeks at a rehabilitation hospital learning how to take care of myself physically and use a wheelchair. Initially (3 months later), I returned to college with the assistance of home health care and the disability services provided at the college.

Instead of the regular four years of college I expected to finish, it took me six years to complete my BAA. Then I moved on to graduate school where I had an opportunity for a degree in disability services. This college had NCAA wheelchair sports I participated in as well. Then after seven in a half year of college the emotional/mental needs of my car accident seemed to catch up with me. I left graduate school without a degree.

Since then, I have taken more college classes, other training, been involved in road racing/handcycling, volunteering, spending time with family, direct sales and have worked at part time jobs. I have enjoyed living in a different state, traveling in the U.S and living in a few places in Michigan. Physically, Emotionally, Mentally and Socially the needs of mine have changed over the last thirty-two years since my car accident. These needs related to my car accident have been met by Michigan's great auto law; I'm grateful for that. **Though the law has changed now, coverage for people with lifelong disabilities like me, should not be taken away. This includes home health care. A lot of my needs have changed. I have the need for home health care to be fully covered by my auto insurance once again, as I did back in 1990** when I returned to college after my car accident and in the more recent years. In both of these times I had/have home health, **the care would not be possible without the full coverage of the auto insurance.** As needs change in anyone's life from a long term disability, a person should be reassured knowing that what they need will be provided for them financially.