



## Living in My Own Home, Thanks to Medicaid

### Briana Willey, Broomfield



*“Thanks to the supports from a Medicaid waiver, Briana has achieved her dream of living in her own home.”*

For as long as she can remember, Briana had always assumed she would grow up, get a job and live in her own home. Given the challenges of her disability, however, the prospects of this independence sometimes seemed out of reach. Briana was born with a developmental disability, impaired vision and epilepsy. School was difficult and she struggled to fit in and enjoy a true sense of belonging.

Briana became eligible for the Supported Living Services (SLS) waiver program when she reached adulthood. The SLS waiver provides far less support than the Comprehensive waiver for those with developmental disabilities (Briana qualifies for the Comprehensive waiver but has been on the wait list for nearly 20 years). However, Briana was determined to realize her

ambitions. With a combination of services provided by SLS waiver and additional support from a network of family, friends and neighbors, Briana moved into her own home in 2012.

*“I knew when her dad passed away that I had to make sure she could live independently,”* says Charlene Willey, Briana’s mom. *“I want to know that she’ll be ok when I’m no longer able to take care of her.”*



With the help of a job coach and transportation to and from work provided by her SLS waiver, Briana has been able to maintain her job at King Soopers for more than 15 years. She swims on the Broomfield Masters swim team, the Bee Gees, and has made many friends there. A combination of family, friends and neighbors, together with paid support staff, provide much of the in-home personal care Briana needs to pursue her independence. She gets help with cooking, shopping, doctor appointments and her finances. Briana especially enjoys walking and hiking with her neighbors.

*“I’m really glad that I can live on my own just like I always thought I could.”*