



## As a teenager, Cathy Burke dreamed of independence—beautiful, glorious, freedom!

She pictured herself in her own apartment, maybe near her parents in her hometown of Duluth, but free to come and go as she pleased.

But with spastic paraplegia caused by cerebral palsy, she needed physical help with some everyday tasks. “My CP is very involved,” she said. As she grew into adulthood, she reluctantly gave up hope an apartment might someday be a possibility. Out of necessity she continued to live at home with her parents.

She first learned about Accessible Space, Inc. during a stay at Courage Center, a Minneapolis rehabilitation center. Cathy eagerly filled out an application for an accessible, affordable home with a unique service model offering 24-hour shared personal care services.

After moving to one of ASI’s first homes in St. Paul, Cathy says she “never looked back.” She was 20 years old and loved her new life. Sharing service hours and common areas with the other residents of the home, she had her own bedroom and real privacy. For the first time, she experienced the self-sufficiency she had imagined as a teen. Her parents were delighted.

Over the years, ASI developed accessible, affordable apartment buildings—one of them in Duluth with the advocacy of Cathy’s parents, Superior View Apartments.<sup>1</sup> When her father got sick with cancer, she had the flexibility to move back to her hometown of Duluth.

Her parents have passed away, but Cathy continues to live at Superior View Apartments. It feels like home. “I appreciate being able to live in my own place and have my own things. It’s very reassuring that there’s somebody here when you need them (for personal care assistance)—but only when you need them.”

She keeps busy on the computer, reads, and socializes. “ASI is giving people an opportunity to live a normal life. I have the opportunity to just be me. It’s something that I’m very grateful for. I couldn’t ask for anything more.”

<sup>1</sup>Today, Superior View Apartments is one of three accessible, affordable apartment buildings built by ASI in Duluth. Burke Apartments are named for Cathy’s parents, who Cathy says “had a passion for making sure that people with disabilities were treated correctly.”

### Accessible Space, Inc.

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