

Carolyn Turner

Hello, my name is Viki Turner. My husband and I live in West Chester, Chester County. I am here to talk about my daughter Carolyn Turner. Carolyn is 46 years old. Along with her diagnosis of Intellectual Disabilities, she also is a person with Prader-Willi syndrome.

Carolyn now resides in a Private Intermediate Care Facility called Martha Lloyd Community Services in the little town of Troy in Bradford County. She was 26 years old when she went to live at Martha Lloyd. She had had a job when she lived at home but lost it and another job for her could not be found.. Her being at home all the time was very difficult for her and for us. When an opening came at Martha Lloyd., we were happy to have her there..

Martha Lloyd is 210 miles away from our home. When we first placed her there, we had several other families with ladies there and took turns driving back and forth. We no longer have these families in our area and as we get older and health issues present themselves, the trip now is very daunting. The 420 mile round trip takes me 8 hours to drive to Bradford County and back home. This makes it difficult to bring her home or visit more than several times a year.

Martha Lloyd has been good for Carolyn, but it is not the best place for her. The ICF has few peers for her to interact and opportunities in the community are not available. Her living arrangements are not ideal either. She is in a crowded room with two other ladies. The opportunity for her own space is very limited. We had hoped that with waiver funding, she could be placed in a home in the Troy or Canton communities, where it would be less crowded. Unfortunately, that didn't happen.

Carolyn increasingly expresses the desire to be closer to home. She worries because her father and I are getting older and she is concerned that she will be at Martha Lloyd and we are 210 miles away and unable to come bring her home.

Now, because we are aging and with greater health issues, I am hopeful that a closer and better situation can be found for Carolyn. A Prader-Willi group home would be ideal and address the concerns about her health and provide the needed supervision. Elwyn has two such homes. Willow Street in Lancaster County is another. Elwyn is perhaps a 20 minute drive and Willow Street about an hour and one-half. Carolyn's needs are specific, but hopefully can be met in a place closer to our home.