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**CONTACT:** Tiffany Devon  
(734) 722-7185  
tdevon@comlivserv.com

### **A HOME OF MY OWN! HOW SWEET IT IS!!!**

**March 15, 2010 – Pontiac, MI -** Home Sweet Home! Those were the words on Daniel Perry’s mind when, after six years of red tape, he finally moved into a barrier-free home in Pontiac! “This is a gift from God!” said Wanda Perry, Daniel’s mom. “We are blessed to have so many people care about us and help us with our dream, to have a beautiful home of our own!”



For the past six years Daniel has lived in a group home that was, “More like a hospital than a home.” Daniel, who communicates with the aid of a communication device, said he wanted more personal freedom and wanted to live in a more private place, somewhere he felt comfortable, secure and at ease. Now instead of several staff people

in and out of his life every day, he has one staff person every eight hours to help him with his daily needs. When asked how he likes his new house, he simply flashes his charming smile, speaks with his expressive eyes and gives his signature thumbs up! It’s obvious he’s thrilled!

Thirteen years ago, Daniel, supported by Community Living Services of Oakland County, was paralyzed from the neck down after losing control of his car and smashing into a pole.



Before the accident, he had several beers and smoked marijuana, but “felt fine” and thought he could drive. He woke up after 11 months in a coma with no use of his arms or legs, was being fed through a feeding tube and he couldn’t speak because the tubes that had kept him alive had permanently damaged his vocal cords.

Dan is now 31 years old and a motivational speaker. He loves educating the public about the dangers of drinking and driving. He especially enjoys speaking with at risk youth. He also likes to teach young people to respect ALL people and to embrace everyone’s differences rather than be afraid of how they look or act.

Community Living Services, Inc. is a non-profit organization providing supports and services to more than 3,000 adults and children with developmental disabilities in Wayne County. CLS Oakland County is funded through the Oakland County Community Mental Health Authority. For more info, visit our web site at [www.comliveserv.com](http://www.comliveserv.com).