

**For Immediate Release**



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### **Center for Independent Living of Broward Prevents Man with Cerebral Palsy from Becoming Institutionalized during COVID-19 Crisis**

**April 28, 2020 (Fort Lauderdale, Florida)**, Bryan Rios is in his late twenties and lives with severe Cerebral Palsy. Bryan's disability makes it impossible for him to live on his own independently. He needs help getting dressed, eating, and going to the bathroom.

When Bryan's home health aide was quarantined for COVID-19, his mother Felicita took over helping him. A small woman, Felicita hurt her back while transferring Bryan from one chair to another. Without help, Bryan was at severe risk of having to go to a nursing home. Because of the high numbers of COVID-19 in those types of settings, both were terrified he would contract the disease. Additionally, they wouldn't be able to see each other.

Felicita knew she needed a solution and called the Center for Independent Living of Broward (CIL Broward) and explained her problem. CIL Broward staff were able to determine that a ceiling lift would be the best solution. The lift is attached to a ceiling track that would move Bryan from setting to setting. It would also prevent his mom from having to lift him, making it easier and safer to help take care of him.

Normally, getting a ceiling lift installed in someone's home isn't a big deal. Unfortunately, because of COVID19, Florida's stay-at-home order has closed all nonessential businesses. There was no one to install a lift.

Corey Hinds, CIL Broward Executive Director reached out to Christopher Fancett at Covenant Contract Service in Springhill, Ohio to explain the situation. Fortunately, they had a ceiling lift perfect for Bryan and his home.

Christopher wanted to make sure the lift was installed properly, he packed up his car and traveled from Springhill, Ohio to Fort Lauderdale, Florida. During his trip, he drove through severe storms and tornados. He even had to show a special letter allowing him to get past the Florida National Guard at the state line! When he finally reached South Florida, Christopher was able to install the ceiling lift at Bryan and Felicita's home in only a few hours.

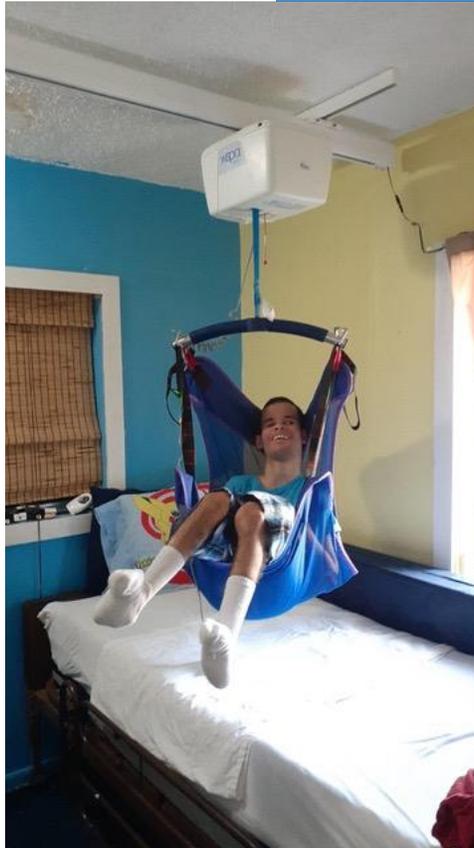
Within four days of his mom contacting CIL Broward, Bryan had a ceiling lift installed in his home, preventing him from moving into a nursing home, and helping him maintain his independence.

"This was an incredible act of kindness, goodwill, and sacrifice," said Hinds, CEO of the Center for Independent Living of Broward. "Christopher Fancett, traveled 1,100 miles, to give a helping hand to a mother and son during Easter weekend to give the family an opportunity to keep Bryan safe and at home. We thank the Christopher and Dana Reeve Foundation, as well as the Scott Family Fund of the Community Foundation of Broward for their generosity in helping people with disabilities remove barriers in their homes and helping them maintain their independence.

**The Center for Independent Living of Broward** assists people with disabilities so they can fulfill their goals of independence and self-sufficiency, and is the only agency in Broward County to offer services to people with all disabilities. More information about the Center for Independent Living and its programs can be found at [www.CILBroward.org](http://www.CILBroward.org)

**The Christopher and Dana Reeve Foundation** is dedicated to curing spinal cord injury by advancing innovative research and improving the quality of life for individuals and families impacted by paralysis. More information about the Christopher and Dana Reeve Foundation can be found at [www.ChristopherReeve.org](http://www.ChristopherReeve.org)

The mission of the **Community Foundation of Broward** is to provide leadership on community solutions and foster philanthropy that connects people who care with causes that matter. More information about the Community Foundation of Broward can be found at [www.CFBroward.org](http://www.CFBroward.org)



*Caption: Bryan Rios enjoys his new ceiling lift thanks to the Center for Independent Living.*

The Center for Independent Living of Broward would also like to give a special Thank You to The Christopher and Dana Reeve Foundation and the Community Foundation of Broward for assisting Bryan.



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