

## #NoPlaceLikeHome

Liz is 30 years old. She has stylish brown hair, great taste in clothes and a smile that brightens any room! Liz's bubbly personality and hysterical sense of humor make her a joy to be around. She also genuinely loves the people in her life with all her heart.

Liz has a unique disability. She attempts to consume inedible objects. Her behavior and subsequent property destruction has led to eviction in the past.

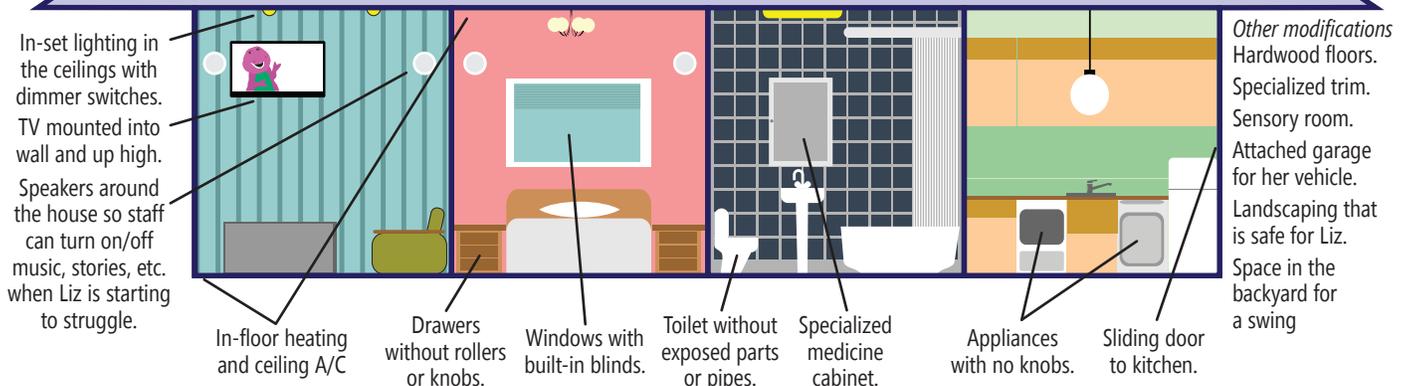


CCRI has a long history of keeping those we support safe. Safety looks different for everyone. For some, it's a wheelchair ramp, accessible bathroom, or home with no stairs. For others, it may be an accessible van, sensing technology, or mental health workbooks. Because of you, we are proud to be able to meet those needs.

When nearly every typical household item can be a danger to Liz, we set out to find another solution. Today we are proud to share with you our #NoPlaceLikeHome campaign! We have begun the plan to build a new home built with her safety in mind. This will be her forever home, where she will be comfortable and safe and never have to worry about eviction.

A home is meant to be something more than a place you sleep at night. A home is where you can be yourself. Together we can build a home where Liz can be Liz...safely.

## With your help, we can build a one-of-a-kind home for a one-of-a-kind Lizzie.



# Family Everywhere

Written by Claire Mohr



Clare Garberg (left) with her daughter, Liz.

"Before I was Liz's mom, I was Liz's nurse."

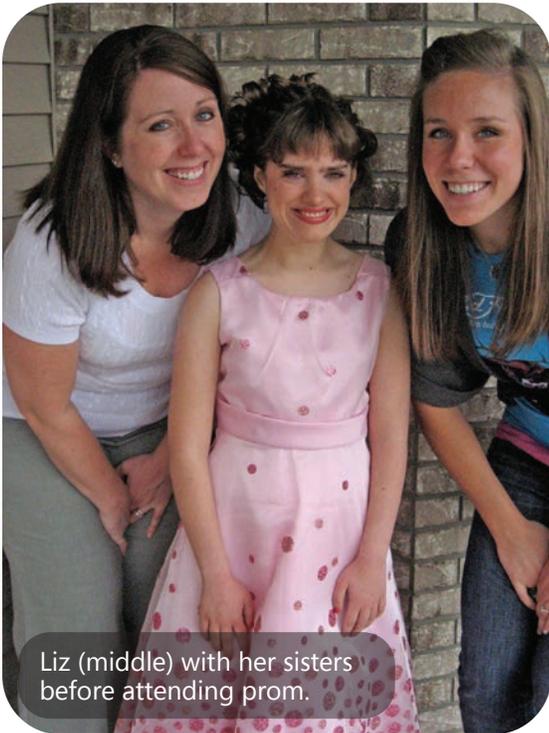
Clare Garberg spent most of her medical career as a pediatric nurse at MeritCare, which is now Sanford. It was here where Clare first met Liz, an infant who had been hospitalized for a prolonged amount of time due to congenital hip disorder and breath-holding spells. Liz's breath-holding spells were different than those of other infants and more dangerous as they would cause her heart rate to drop severely and require resuscitation. With Liz's parents unable to properly care for her due to their individual disabilities and the dangers of her breath-holding spells, the hospital began searching for foster care for Liz.

"And in a moment of not thinking clearly, I said 'well I could take her home.'"

Clare and her husband Bryan became licensed foster parents and brought Liz into their family. "She was just adorable. They had already diagnosed her with a huge cognitive delay and I just thought that if we got her out of the hospital environment and into a home she would really progress." With four children of their own, Liz's new siblings excitedly welcomed her into their family. Her new family became very important to Liz and allowed her to feel "that love from a very huge group of people."

However, caring for Liz outside of the hospital and its many resources proved to be a challenge. When Liz was 10 years old, a social worker informed the family of agencies that could provide assistance. Because of this, the Garbergs found CCRI. "That was life changing" Clare says.





Liz (middle) with her sisters before attending prom.

While still living at home with her family, CCRI caregivers would take Liz to activities such as bowling, cooking, and later, the annual CCRI prom. These events allowed Liz more opportunities to engage with the community and create new bonds.

"As Liz got older, she watched her siblings all leave the nest and it was important she had that too. She hit an age where it was time for her to have her own place." Liz moved into a home where she is now supported by caregivers 24 hours a day. This granted her more independence and an opportunity to form new relationships. CCRI not only brought Liz a new place to live, but new people into her life.

Now 30 years old, Liz is a familiar face to everyone at CCRI, from office staff to the Executive Director. "She sees us all as part of her family" Alita Hanson, SLS Assistant Director, shares. "Liz is somebody

who just very genuinely loves the people in her life."

While working as an RN at CCRI, Clare saw how family reaches every corner of the company, "to see the passion everybody has was unbelievable."

The love and support of a family is a universal experience and for Liz, finding CCRI meant expanding her family even more. As Hanson says, "she knows she has two homes."



Liz (left) with caregiver Madie.

## Join Us For

# TABLESCAPES

Tuesday, October 12, 2021

All dollars raised support Liz's safe and unique new home.

Join us in person or virtually.

Tickets: [CCRIMoorhead.org](http://CCRIMoorhead.org)

*Can't attend? Inspire others to give with a gift to our match fund.*



Creative Care for  
Reaching Independence

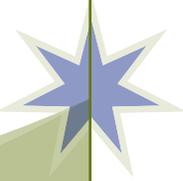
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The mission of CCRI is to enhance and enrich the lives and learning of people with disabilities.

The vision of CCRI is to provide an environment where people of all abilities may experience life's possibilities.



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The Art of Dining

Enjoy this creative event in person at the Courtyard by Marriott, Moorhead or from the comfort of your home.

Proceeds will be proudly used for a new home for Liz.

Tuesday, October 12, 2021 at 5:30 P.M.

Tickets can be purchased online at [CCRIMoorhead.org](http://CCRIMoorhead.org) or by contacting Anna Larson at 218-331-2036 or [ALarson@CreativeCare.org](mailto:ALarson@CreativeCare.org).

