

MOLLY PAYNE'S STORY: A WHOLE NEW WORLD

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Molly Payne was first admitted to Pacific State Hospital at the age of five. Since that time she has lived in large institutions, most recently Fairview Developmental Center. Until now.

As of February of this year, and at the age of 51, Molly is back in the community and enjoying all it has to offer.

Molly enjoys the caring, individual attention she receives in her new home from Martha Alemseged.



Molly's seizure disorder and other medical conditions were the reason she had remained in a skilled nursing unit at Fairview. Her unit consisted of approximately 30 other people sharing the same space. She now resides in a specialized home, The San Francisco Home, located in the city of Long Beach that was developed and designed to meet the special needs of Molly and others like her.

At the developmental center, Molly's personal space was limited to a bed and a closet in a room that she shared with up to three other people. She now has her own bedroom and lives with a total

of three other residents in the home.

Her new home is a lovely 4-bedroom with wheelchair accessibility that is physically adapted to promote mobility for Molly and the other residents. It is very nicely decorated with pictures of Molly and her housemates throughout the home. There are large hallways that facilitate movement. In addition, there is a large landscaped backyard with patio furniture where Molly can relax with her housemates and staff.

Molly is doing extremely well since moving into her new home. She communicates her needs through facial expressions, body movements and sounds. Her smiles and laughter when her home caregivers and housemates are near make it evident how much she enjoys interacting with them. She enjoys going with them on walks around the neighborhood, playing games with staff, listening to music, enjoying the sunshine and fresh air in the back yard, and going along on community shopping trips. Molly has also gone to the Queen Mary, Shoreline Village, the Pike in Long Beach and many other places.

During the day, Molly now attends the Cole-Bixby day program in Long Beach. This was initially an adjustment for her, but after a few months she has become more animated and less easily tired. She really enjoys the music recreational therapy session of the day program and interacting with staff, and they report that she is a pleasure to work with.

There's no looking back for Molly. She has come a long way since her days at Fairview. Molly is being exposed to a whole new world! ■