



Jane celebrates her first birthday after leaving the nursing home in her own apartment.



Jane, a diehard Yankee's fan, touring Yankee Stadium.

I Choose Home NJ is a federal program designed to move people out of nursing homes into independent community settings with Medicaid supports. If you are interested in learning more, please call ICHNJ at 1-855-466-3005 or visit www.ichoosehome.nj.gov.

Jane couldn't be happier with her move from a nursing home to the community through the I Choose Home NJ program. "I have all my own privacy, all my own apartment," she said. "All in all, it's been very positive. Even though I have no family, I've done it on my own."

She is grateful to the I Choose Home team for helping her make the transition to an affordable, accessible apartment with an aide. Jane was 47, "a very alert and young paraplegic" when she entered a nursing home in April 2006. She served there as resident council president. But as a strong self-advocate, she was unhappy with the care she received and having to depend on others.

"I came to the conclusion that after becoming a bilateral amputee (losing both legs), it was time for a move to the community where I could direct my own care," she said. "I had two wounds that never healed in the nursing home, but with better care and cleaner surroundings, my wounds healed 2 months ago - imagine that! I'm healed up and I'm healthy."

Now she revels in her autonomy. "I love to go to bed around 5 o'clock. I'm not big about 10 or 11 - I get up at about 5am. I do my online food shopping at Shoprite. I do a little cooking; the aide does most of the cooking. My apartment is absolutely beautiful. I'm doing well and can't ask for anything more."



Jane's cake celebrating her one year anniversary of leaving the nursing home.