



Northeast Center for Special Care

www.northeastcenter.com

300 Grant Avenue
Lake Katrine, NY 12449
845-336-3500



Samantha B.

"You can have a life."

Imagine being seventeen again, having your whole life ahead of you and suddenly having your whole life change in an instant. Samantha B., understands what that is like. She was an active high school student when an accident altered the rest of her life.

We asked Samantha about what happened:

I'm nineteen now and I was in a car accident when I was seventeen years old and I broke my neck and suffered a C-4 spinal cord injury. When I woke up I was in total shock. When someone tells you that you are never going to walk again it's one of the worst things that you can hear, ever - especially when you are my age.

Samantha B., a young person who has been through so much but who has so much to look forward to.



Samantha was rushed to the hospital in serious condition. At times it didn't look good for her.

I don't remember being in the hospital initially. I literally died five times. I remember one time there were people in the room and their voices just started fading away and I was fading.

The worst of it passed and Samantha was soon transferred to another hospital where she began her rehabilitation. Then she came to Northeast Center for Special Care.

When I first got here I was nervous because I thought I would be the only young person but when I arrived at Northeast Center I was on a unit with a lot of young folks and that helped me to quickly adapt. The staff and friends I met here made me feel very comfortable and that helped a lot.



Samantha enjoying some sun on the Northeast Center campus.

Coming to an active, therapeutic community of people striving to re-learn and re-gain abilities lost through injury and seasoned professional therapists who share a common mission of rehabilitation and recovery for the Resident-Neighbors they work with, the effect of her new environment was positive for Samantha.

I've gotten my self-confidence back. I can use a computer. I have Dragon-Dictate software and that helps me to control the PC. I can also use a cell phone with an adaptive device. I've worked hard in physical therapy; I use the tilt-table a lot with my physical therapist. I've learned how to be independent again.

Rehabilitation and recovery naturally lead to reintegration in the community and Samantha is making another transition.

I am going to move to an accessible apartment close to my family. My community reentry case manager and I are working to set-up the services I am going to need. I am excited about going and a little bit nervous too so the first thing I am going to do when I get home is just adjust.

But Samantha has goals and she plans on pursuing them once she gets home.

I don't want to go back to high school so I decided that I'm going to get my GED and then I want to go to college. I'm going to study landscape design, its something I am interested in, when I was in high-school I worked in lawn care - I was good at weed whacking and I mowed better than the guys! Like I said I can use a computer with adaptive controls so this is a possibility for me.

Samantha and unit staff members, Left to right: Rich Roman, Recreation Aide, Erika Dennison, CNA, Sue Benson, CNA, Eric Vedder, RN Nursing Supervisor, Samantha B., Sara Bockelman, LPN, Adessa Fairly, LPN.



Going through so much at a young age Samantha is philosophical and offers this comfort for people who may be going through what she has experienced:

Northeast Center is a place that can help you. My therapists were great. Laura, my occupational therapist helped me get the adaptive things that I needed to be more independent and to learn to use them. She also helped me with organizing my time and my therapies. Laura was the person who got me to go the art studio. I worked a lot with Diane in the art studio painting. I have made Mandelas with colored pencils on black paper - Paul who does assistive technology modified an easel for me. Bill, another therapist, helped me a lot with range of motion for my arm. There are a younger group of folks here and that makes a big difference.

Northeast Center for Special Care helps people like Samantha every day. It is what we live to do. Our [mission](#) drives us to assist our Resident-Neighbors to transition to rewarding, full lives in their home communities.

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