

Melanie Casey, Arlington VT

Financial assistance recipient for wheelchair ramp

“It makes me feel independent. I couldn’t afford it; I live on disability.”

When Melanie Casey of Arlington, Vermont was first diagnosed with multiple sclerosis (MS) in 1983, she admits it was hard. She’s always been one to focus on the positive, however, so she managed her symptoms as best she could and remained mobile using a cane.

“I’m very independent,” she said proudly.

When her symptoms progressed and she had to use a wheelchair, she remained positive, adapting her life to her new mode of mobility.

“I go to the bank to the drive up window in my wheelchair,” she said with a laugh.

But there was one obstacle she couldn’t manage herself; a small set of stairs leading to her house. She knew she needed a wheelchair ramp, but couldn’t afford to build one on the income she receives from Social Security.

That’s where the National Multiple Sclerosis Society came in to help. The Society teamed up with the Vermont Center for Independent Living to provide the funds needed for Melanie’s ramp.

She said the process was easy and the results terrific. Most importantly, Melanie has her independence back.

Her advice to others in similar situations:

“Don’t be afraid to ask for help; it’s not hard. They helped me.”