

HOMEOWNERSHIP

Starting out on her own

It's said that one's life can change in an instant. Holly Petro knows that's true because she's lived it. But the car accident that left her paralyzed hasn't defined her. She wouldn't let it.

While recuperating at home, her parents wanted to remodel the home they'd built just 5 months earlier to now accommodate Holly's wheelchair. But she'd have nothing of

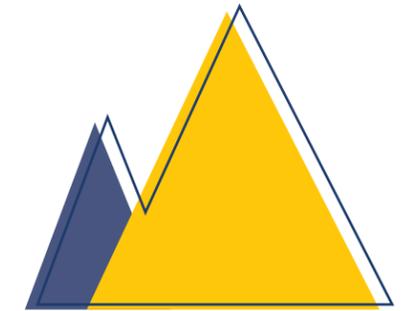
it. Holly is a fiercely independent young woman, and, in the situation she found herself now, that character trait was a strength she would draw upon.

She would, she decided, purchase a home so she could live her own life. Her previous employer had held her job for her, so her professional career was back on track. But housing remained a challenge.



Holly's kitchen sink, counters and cabinets are all easily accessible.

THE IMPACT OF EACH HOME LOAN IS MULTIPLIED BY THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE HOUSED



▲ 3,498 home loans in 2014

▲ 8,154 adults and children housed in 2014

Holly's neighborhood is perfect for walks with Levi.



Her housing solution

Working with Susan Mendygral of Honesdale National Bank, Holly started exploring her options. Her housing solution was a townhome community that was under construction in Hanover Township, Luzerne County. The builder would work with Holly to customize the home with features like lower countertops and roll-under sinks so that she could be self-sufficient.

Her financing solution was provided by PHFA. Honesdale National Bank is a PHFA-approved participating lender. Her 30-year, fixed-rate mortgage offered a highly attractive interest rate. So she could buy that townhome without worrying that her paycheck wouldn't cover all her monthly bills. PHFA made homeownership affordable.

"When Susan gave me my loan options, PHFA had the best rate for me," Holly shares. "When she worked out what my payments would be, it was something I was able to afford."

In March of 2013, Holly, and her border collie Levi, moved into their new home.

"I absolutely love it," Holly beams. "It's wonderful. I can now cook, clean, wash dishes, and do my laundry – a few things many others wouldn't be excited to do. But when you physically can't do them for yourself, it's terrible. It's just wonderful to be on my own and have my independence back."

