



Bob Riley
GOVERNOR

Alabama Department of
REHABILITATION SERVICES



Steve Shivers
COMMISSIONER

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Kathleen McGehee
334-293-7500 or 1-800-441-7607

Phenix City resident receives two-year old wish for Christmas

PHENIX CITY – Phenix City resident Wallace “Wally” Brewer is getting a long-awaited gift for Christmas. He’s going home.

The 42-year-old man was involved in a serious car accident two years ago on Dec. 26, 2006. His sister, Nancy Horne, said her sibling’s homecoming is a Christmas miracle.

“He’s very excited he’s able to come home,” she said.

Wally, who was not wearing a seatbelt at the time of the accident, swerved to avoid another vehicle, and ended up pinned beneath his truck. The accident left him with a spinal cord injury and a mild traumatic brain injury.

He’s going home Dec. 23 after spending much of the last two years in nursing homes. He is currently staying at Warm Springs Medical Center Nursing Home in Georgia.

The Alabama Department of Rehabilitation Services (ADRS) has worked with Wally to help him move back home.

The State of Alabama Independent Living (SAIL) Service, a program of ADRS , will provide someone to come in 10 hours a week to help him with his personal care. His SAIL nurse, Villa Danford, will educate him on ways to accommodate for having a spinal cord injury.

Haleigh Cushen, a traumatic brain injury coordinator with Vocational Rehabilitation Service (VRS), another ADRS program, has worked with Wally to assure that he has the services he needs. As his condition continues to improve, she will work with a VRS rehabilitation counselor to help the former school bus driver return to the workplace.

Nancy said she appreciates the community for coming together to support her brother on his road to recovery. The Russell County School System, local churches and neighbors have provided donations and support for Wally. She said she is especially thankful to ADRS .

“We want everyone to know that there are resources if this situation ever happens to anyone in their family,” Nancy said. “Not many people know how vital these services are to the family.”

The Alabama Department of Rehabilitation Services is the state agency whose mission is to enable Alabama’s children and adults with disabilities to achieve their maximum potential.