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To Whom It May Concern,

Emily has a diagnosis of Cerebral Palsy and Epilepsy as a result of a traumatic birth, during which she was starved of oxygen.

Like all teenage girls Emily is keen to join in with friends and be as independent as possible. However, the wheelchair provided by wheelchair services does not enable Emily to participate in many of the activities she enjoys, and often leaves her excluded from many aspects of day-to-day life.

Emily is very sociable and very much a 'people person'. She loves nothing more than spending time with her friends and family but currently she relies heavily upon someone else (usually an adult) to push her in her manual wheelchair when we're out and about. Her powered wheelchair offers her some independence, but there are limitations on where she can go in it. She's getting to an age where she'd like to be more independent and able to do the things her friends like to do – go to the park, enjoy shopping trips and just hang out together. Not being able to do these things has really affected Emily's confidence, which has had an impact on her overall mental health. She can be quite anxious at times and often gets frustrated when she's unable to do the things she sees her older brother and sister, and friends doing so freely.

At the moment, when we're socialising with friends Emily often ends up being 'stuck' with the adults while the other kids go off to do their own thing. She's really close to her brother and sister, but she's often left out because she simply can't go where they are and they would really love her to be able to join them too. Of course we try to make sure she's involved as much as possible, but ultimately teenagers want more freedom and if we're there with them for Emily's sake it affects the whole dynamic.

We always encourage Emily to do as much for herself within her capabilities and this wheelchair powerpack would mean she wouldn't need to rely on other people having to push her. I believe this would allow Emily more freedom to join in and experience the natural progression of doing more things for herself and on her own as she grows up, which she so desperately wants.

Over the last few years we have done lots of our own fundraising to be able to get the most suitable powered wheelchair for Emily, as she was not eligible for one on the NHS. We are also currently self-funding some household renovations to make our bathroom more suitable for Emily's needs and give her more autonomy with her self-care as much as possible. All this means we are currently unable to afford the full cost of this equipment ourselves, but we have saved to put £100 towards the cost of it.

The powerpack could last 15 years or more, so long-term we also think that that it could enable Emily to pursue further and even higher education if she chooses, or even simply mean she could attend concerts with her friends, as she is a huge fan of music. It would really open up her world!

Yours Sincerely,

Louise and Phil Evans