

We are the Johnson family...Tom&Cori and we have four adult kids. Our twin daughters and our son were born with a rare chromosome deletion that was finally identified when Ben was born, and the girls were 12 years old! Our middle daughter is not directly affected by the Wolf Hirschhorn Syndrome but has grown up being a loving sister and caregiver to her siblings. Years ago, I(mom)met up with my son, Ben, and a direct support professional, at the Mall of America when Ben was a young adult. He was going on a special outing to Under Water World and then lunch at the mall. When it came time to freshen him up (he is incontinent and non-ambulatory) we weren't sure where to go. We didn't want to lay him on the restroom floor. Which would be unsanitary, unsafe, undignified. He was too big for the baby changing table. Our only option was to go back to our vehicle in the parking ramp, change him quickly for privacy, and so he wouldn't get cold or uncomfortable, and put him back in his wheelchair, go back into the mall and the restaurant. That was many years ago, and the Mall of America still has no adult changing stations available to adults who have disabilities or are elderly.

In fact, very few public buildings with adult changing stations in MN are available to families with children who are disabled. We found The University of MN, the Science Museum, and MSP airport.

Because of covid, our kids have been living in isolation for 2-3 years, away from family, friends, recreational activities, etc. and they are ready to break free and have some fun. But where are the restrooms that are accessible to make this happen?

There are still only 17 states that have height adjustable adult changing tables in their airports...we need more new buildings to include these safe, inclusive, private, dignified restrooms for wheelchair users and their companions/caregivers. For babies, toddlers, teenagers, men and women, our veterans. Everyone should have this basic human right. Any single one of us could be injured tomorrow and need something like this for the rest of our lives.

We families who struggle with this challenge appreciate your support.

We need powered height adjustable adult changing tables in family and companion restrooms in buildings. And we need this to be a state requirement.

Thank you for your support, your service, and your time.

Tom and Cori Johnson and family