

Grant 17 Karen Archbold – May 2022



Anne Dyer



Daniel O'Reilly

May 2022

ADDOR is pleased to announce a further grant in the continued fight against Huntington's disease (HD), providing financial support to help an HD sufferer, Karen Archbold.

Karen Archbold



Karen was 17 years old when she was diagnosed with Huntington's disease (HD). Now 43 years old she lives in Belfast, with her partner Billy and two teenage children, a son 18 years old and a daughter aged 11 years old. Karen inherited HD from her mum, other aunts and uncles have also been diagnosed with HD.

Karen requires help with her mobility. She attends a local day centre and the wheelchair she was provided with by the local authority and fitted for by Occupational Therapy is required to stay at the Day Centre. The wheelchair that Karen has at home is no longer suitable, it is too large and heavy making it difficult to manoeuvre and limiting her independence and ability to go out with her family.

Karen in recent times has become increasingly dependent on use of a wheelchair due to her reduced mobility. Due to space limitation and restrictions in the family home however, her Occupational Therapy assessed wheelchair is kept at Day Centre which she attends 2 days per week as there is no room for it to manoeuvre at home as it is large and cumbersome.

Before diagnosis and until recent years, when symptoms have become more progressed, Karen enjoyed days out; going to the seaside and shopping. She previously worked as an office secretary.

A lighter more versatile wheelchair is needed to enable the family to disassemble with ease and transport for family days out or to GP and clinic appointments. This would greatly enhance Karen's quality of life in being able to maintain some of the activities which she enjoyed before, and in giving quality time with her family.

Karen has experienced increasing difficulty at home in recent times as the family home is not suitable for significant adaptations and is presently on a waiting list for other suitable accessible housing options. This has made life much more difficult for her (recurring falls on the stairs have resulted in injury)

Karen still enjoys the opportunity to get out and about when able with Billy and their children. Opportunities have however been significantly curtailed without use of a wheelchair. Recently during the Easter break they went on a train journey to Portrush, but without a wheelchair were unable to fully enjoy the trip.

A private mobility company can supply an appropriate chair for £350.

ADDOR is very pleased to provide a grant of £500 to enable Karen and Billy to purchase a new wheel chair and enjoy outside visits, perhaps to Portrush to enhance the quality of Karen's daily life.

Karen and Billy "expressed much gratitude for ADDOR's support to them" and Billy's mum also texted to say: "I would like to thank you and everyone concerned in this for their help and kindness - it will certainly make a difference to Karen, Billy and the family. Once again thank you".

If you would like to help in the fight to defeat HD, fund research and help others like Karen

Please donate at addor.co.uk

