

Abby Lifts helps residents gain full access to their homes

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CORRESPONDENT

Like many other Shore-area residents following the devastation caused by superstorm Sandy in 2012, 93-year-old LaVallette resident Anna Daniels was required to raise her home.

Though the one-story beach cottage previously only had three steps up to the front door, "my mother's home is now 12 feet in the air and has 15 steps to get into the house," said her daughter, Dee. "While my mother is reasonably mobile and was able to manage the former three steps, she has difficulty walking great distances and the whole experience really knocked the pins out from under her."

Concerned about her elderly mom's new need to scale five times as many steps to get in and out of her house each day, "we weren't sure what to do," Dee said.

Enter Abby Lifts, a Toms River-based company, which specializes in helping individuals gain full access to all floors in their homes through the provision of safe and convenient stair lifts, vertical

platform (wheelchair) lifts, and modular ramps.

Launched with her husband, Jim, in 2001, "Abby Lifts sells lifts of all kinds from the market's broad range of manufacturers and we then install and service everything we offer, even products that weren't purchased through us," said owner and Vice President Terry Quinlisk.

Among the various products Abby Lifts sells, custom-installs, and services are vertical platform lifts, "which safely and securely transport wheelchair-bound individuals from one floor to another with the simple push of a button," Quinlisk said. "Other products we offer include stair lifts, which are track-mounted on the treads of steps and are ideal for older people with knee injuries or mobility or balance issues, as well as modular ramp systems in aluminum or wood finishes, which can be fitted to the outside of any home to make that home ADA-compliant for a wheelchair-bound occupant."

For those in need of any of these devices for a temporary period of time

rather than permanently, such as those who are rehabilitating or post-surgery, these items can be cost-effectively rented from Abby Lifts instead of purchased.

Based on her 16 years in the business, Quinlisk said that more consumers are in need of lifts and ramps than ever before and that these items can truly restore an individual's sense of independence in their own home.

"So many older people end up moving their bed into the dining room or another space on the ground floor of their home because they simply can't get up and down the stairs anymore, in fact, one customer we serviced cried when we installed her chair lift because she said she hadn't been upstairs in so long and was excited to get her freedom back," Quinlisk said.

"It costs over \$9,000 a month to live in a nursing home," she added of a path that some seniors who can no longer navigate their stairs opt for, "so it's far cheaper to spend \$3,000 for a stair lift and some grab bars and be able to stay in and enjoy your own home."

On behalf of her mom, Dee Daniels

can attest to that.

At the recommendation of a neighbor, she had Abby Lifts install a platform lift at her mother's house in summer 2016 to help Anna navigate her front steps and mother and daughter haven't looked back since.

"Abby Lifts was great to work with—they were very helpful, knowledgeable and responsive to my questions," Dee said. "My mom loves her house and without this lift, she might not have been able to stay there. It's a great product, which makes it much easier and safer for my mom to access the house, which helps alleviate concerns for both of us."

Quinlisk agreed. "Our products restore independence, freedom and accessibility and enable residents to age in place at home," she said. "They also reduce concerns for the so-called 'sandwich generation,' who can enjoy greater peace of mind knowing that their parents will be safer at home."

Abby Lifts, 1591 Route 37 W, Suite G2 in Toms River, call 732-240-0446 or visit www.abbylifts.com.