

PRESS RELEASE

Pfronstetten-Aichelau, May 30, 2022

Direct on-site help that gets there

PARAVAN-GmbH supports Ukrainian young woman with an electric wheelchair, so that she can be independently mobile in the future, without being dependent on outside help.

Vladislava's face beams as she drives alone and unassisted across the yard at the PARAVAN mobility park in Aichelau in her new purple PR Piccolino. Three months ago, she came to Münsingen with her family from Kiev with only a suitcase and backpack. The 19-year-old has spinal muscular atrophy (SMA) and previously had an active wheelchair that she cannot move on her own. "I was always dependent on outside help, could not leave our apartment in Kiev independently," reports the computer science student, who would now like to continue her studies in Germany. "Now I can get around without my parents."



Vladislava is mobile with her new PARAVAN power wheelchair and will be able to travel alone in the future, whether in the city or to study, Photo: PARAVAN

At the beginning of the Ukraine war, the family fled via Warsaw; acquaintances then drove them directly to Münsingen, where they were first accommodated in a hotel. "We were very well received here, the hospitality was great," says Vladislava's father, Leonid Kylivnyk, who fled with his wife and another daughter. After two days in the hotel, they were assigned an apartment in Münsingen, where they have been staying ever since. Among the helpers in Münsingen at the time was Stefan Ludwig, head of the wheelchair department at PARAVAN GmbH. "We were looking for barrier-free accommodation for the family," he reports. "That's when I met Vladislava. In order to continue her education in Germany and participate in social life, something absolutely had to be changed about her situation, and PARAVAN has the means to help."

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"This is direct help on the spot," says Martina Arnold, for whom it was a matter of course to support the family. "It's nice to be able to support directly and to see what a plus the help brings to the quality of life. Now we hope that Vladislava settles in quickly and finds a place to study. The wheelchair will give her the mobility she needs to attend lectures on her own, for example." She has already made her first independent excursions with the wheelchair in Münsingen, for example to the town hall or to go shopping.

At the moment, the family's main focus is on integrating into the workforce. Leonid is a structural engineer, his second daughter studied construction management. Both would also like to return to work in their professions. The family has learned German online on their own, and now they are preparing to attend the integration course. This is an important prerequisite for gaining a foothold in the job market. Currently, the family is looking for an apartment in the Stuttgart or Karlsruhe area in order to quickly find a suitable job without having to rely on outside or government assistance. Vladislava would also like to continue her studies as soon as possible.

The Kylivnyk family misses their homeland, from which they had to flee because of the war. Currently, a return is out of the question. "That's where we lived, that's our home," Leonid says. The family does not yet know when and if they will be able to return.



from left: Leonid Kylivnyk, Stefan Ludwig, Head of Wheelchair Department, Andreas Block, Vladislava Kylivnyk (center), Martina Arnold, Yana and Alia Kylivnyk. Photo PARAVAN

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For the wheelchair handover, they went independently for a tour of the farm, Photo: PARAVAN

Contact:

Anke Leuschke, Press Spokesperson, Paravan GmbH,
Tel.: +49 7388/ 99 95 81, e-mail: anke.leuschke@paravan.de

About Paravan GmbH:

Paravan GmbH is the world market leader for highly customized vehicle solutions for the disabled. Around 180 employees develop and produce individually adapted automobile conversions, power wheelchairs. Paravan pursues a holistic approach with the "all-in-one concept". The technological highlight is Space Drive, an intelligent digital control system based on the drive-by-wire principle. Thanks to the active redundancy of the servo motors, it is completely fail-safe and the first in the world to be approved for road use. With the help of this innovation, severely disabled people, some without arms or legs, can drive independently and safely. It is not possible for these drivers to simply intervene in the steering wheel. Worldwide, Space Drive has proven itself on over one billion road kilometers in the last 18 years and is used by numerous industrial customers for test vehicles in the field of autonomous driving. The system is available as a retrofit kit with an open interface for all known vehicle types. www.paravan.de