LINDA'S KITCHEN

Her new fully-accessible kitchen allows her to give back to her community



STORY BY **KASEY HARVEY** PHOTOGRAPHY BY **LAURA PILZ**

For 25 years the Home Builders
Foundation has modified homes to
make them accessible to people living
with physical disabilities throughout
the Denver Metro area. HBF partners
with the building industry to make
the modifications at no cost to the
recipient. By building independence
within the home, HBF hopes to
elevate the lives of its recipients
within the community.

Linda Vias is a recipient of the HBF and her home modifications have changed

her life. Three separate events left her paralyzed, without her voice or the use of the left side of her body. Linda continued to stay active, going on service trips to Africa and racing in marathons, but baking, her "love language," proved more difficult in her old kitchen.

Linda's request came to HBF through CING—Construction Industry Networking Group. "CING really championed the project," says Beth Forbes, executive director of the Home



Builders Foundation. "Linda's application was approved because we knew how much community impact she would be able to give once the modifications were made at her house."

Linda's home alterations include a front ramp, garage ramp, access to her back patio, fully accessible bathroom, new flooring throughout the house, and a brand new kitchen. Steve Beard from CBA Construction, recommended to be project captains by CING, says, "Despite a challenge or two along the way, when it was finished, Linda was overwhelmed with the outcome. It was a pleasure to see the joy it brought her."

Linda's new kitchen is fully accessible, with lower counter tops, soft-close cabinets, rapid stove boiling, lower microwave and two ovens that open sideways. "When you love to cook and bake for people, an accessible kitchen is everything," Linda says. "HBF and CING gave me the tools to keep on and to always give back. I am incredibly grateful to everyone involved."







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