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ON GIVINGTUESDAY ON NOV 30, A CHANCE TO CHANGE A LOCAL WOMAN'S LIFE

Living With Paralysis, Sofia Carpenter Says Accessible Van "Would Change My Life Forever"

FRESNO, Calif.—It's been 28 years since a devastating car accident left 32-year-old Sofia Carpenter with a spinal cord injury and killed her mother. On November 30, the global giving day GivingTuesday, the Fresno community has a special opportunity to help Sofia bring an accessible van within reach. The national nonprofit Help Hope Live will waive credit card fees for all donations in Sofia's honor.

Sofia sees a huge source of hope for her future: to complete her education and achieve her dream of becoming a social worker. However, Sofia's local transportation options are unreliable and sometimes unsafe. In 2020, Sofia opted to pause her education at Fresno Pacific University out of concern for her health and the difficulties of accessing safe transportation.

Insurance has refused to help with the cost of an accessible van, leaving Sofia with the staggering out-of-pocket cost of \$23,000 to secure a modified vehicle. That's why she turned to the national nonprofit Help Hope Live to start a fundraising campaign. After three years of fundraising with the nonprofit, Sofia is just \$11,867 away from her goal. Donate at: <https://helphopelive.org/campaign/14738/> or purchase items from Sofia's Bonfire store at: <https://www.bonfire.com/store/van-for-sofia/>

"I am still dedicated to pursuing my bachelor's degree in social work," said Sofia. "With an accessible van, I'll be able to continue my education and pursue my dream of becoming a social worker. I will also be able to reliably get to the medical appointments and church services that are important to me."

Fundraising with Help Hope Live instead of a site like GoFundMe protects Sofia's state-based benefits and ensures that donations can be tax deductible for donors. On GivingTuesday on November 30, donations will go even further as Help Hope Live covers all the credit card fees on online donations in Sofia's honor.

"I have experienced many tragedies in life, but the accident I experienced also opened up many blessings that I never could have dreamed of," said Sofia. "I am grateful for the experiences I've had,



Help Hope Live

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from traveling to horseback riding to dancing in my wheelchair, and thankful to the community for donating to help make my dreams for the future come true.”

Since 2012, [GivingTuesday](#) has provided an opportunity for people around the world to offset the heavy spending of Black Friday and Cyber Monday with charitable contributions and support.

Donations to Help Hope Live are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law, and all funds raised will be managed by the nonprofit to cover verified medical and related expenses. Help Hope Live verifies medical and financial need for every patient.

Help Hope Live is a national nonprofit that specializes in engaging communities in secure, tax-deductible fundraising campaigns for people who need a transplant or are affected by a catastrophic injury or illness. Since 1983, campaigns organized by Help Hope Live have raised over \$150 million to pay patient expenses.

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