



## *Barroney's Story*

Barroney "Barry" is a young man with plans of his own, which included moving out of his mother's home into his own house and he had the devotion from his family and friends to succeed.

The first step was helping Barry learn more about his wants and dreams. Barry's mom, Mel, was first in line to make things happen. Barry and his family received assistance from the Supported Community Living Initiative from the University of South Carolina's Center for Disability Resources. Barry also had the support from his community, including, his aunt Tracey, members of his church, Mr. Hines who is

a close friend, a local realtor and his Service Coordinator from the South Carolina Autism Society.

Barry's circle of support began by developing a PATH (Planning Alternative Tomorrows with Hope), which identified Barry's likes, dislikes, and dreams. At the end of his PATH meeting, it was clear that he is a friendly person. He has developed friendships over the years that he wanted to make sure continued after his move. Barry also assists a young woman with eating and transferring, which attributes to his caring and nurturing qualities. Barry also wanted to participate in the South Carolina Special Olympics as a competitive swimmer and sing in his church's youth choir.

Things began to move like a sky rocket. Barry is now a member of the youth choir. Mr. Hines, his friend, takes Barry to baseball games, movies, community festivals and events. Barry loves Opera and musical events and his mom Mel makes sure that Barry attends all of the musical productions in the Columbia area. The Supported Community Living Initiative and the Realtor, with the collaboration of the South Carolina Finance and Housing Authority, secured a Housing Choice Voucher. With the support of his family and friends, Barry now has a home of his own.

Through innovation and creativity, Barry's circle of support was able to assist Barry in accomplishing his goals. It is truly amazing what can happen through the power of ideas. Sometimes the best answer to a question is the simple answer.