

At age 15, he became a casualty of war.

At 22, he won a local lottery.



When Ahmed talks about his childhood, he describes himself as a serious student, a boy who dreamed of one day being a pharmacist. But after he was shot while shopping at an outdoor market, he could no longer attend school. Ahmed was unable to use a wheelchair on streets and in buildings that were inaccessible, and had little opportunity in the war-torn city he lived in to receive the treatment he desperately needed.

When he was 21 years old, he secured a visa and arrived in California speaking only Arabic, enduring painful bedsores, paralyzed, scared, and alone.

With assistance from a refugee organization, Ahmed moved into a nursing facility. A year later he was referred to EBI's California Community Transitions program, and we helped him enter a lottery for residents of long-term care facilities. One of three winners, he was able to rent an accessible, subsidized home made possible through a partnership between EBI, Hello Housing, the Housing Authority of the County of Alameda, and Housing Consortium of the East Bay.



EBI helped Ahmed with all aspects of his move, from providing emotional support, to purchasing furnishings and setting up his new home, to ensuring that he had adequate attendant care. With a community rallying to assist him, today Ahmed is thriving, learning English at a remarkable pace, and becoming increasingly mobile with the use of his wheelchair. Ahmed's eager to resume his education and despite the extraordinary challenges he's faced, his dream of becoming a pharmacist remains.

With your help, EBI's California Community Transitions program has assisted Ahmed and 72 other nursing home residents to move into the community. With your contributions, EBI assists more than 350 individuals with autism and other disabilities to live and work as independently as possible.

Your generosity profoundly changes lives.



Tom Heinz, Executive Director, EBI

Please consider making a donation to EBI today.





East Bay Innovations
2450 Washington Avenue, Suite 240 San Leandro, CA 94577
www.eastbayinnovations.org