



Home Usability Solutions

Home Usability Peer Network

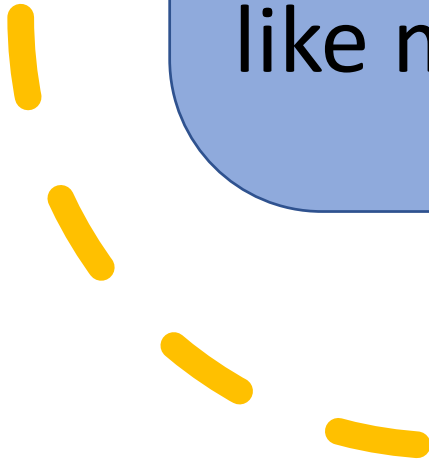

January 10th, 2024

Home Usability

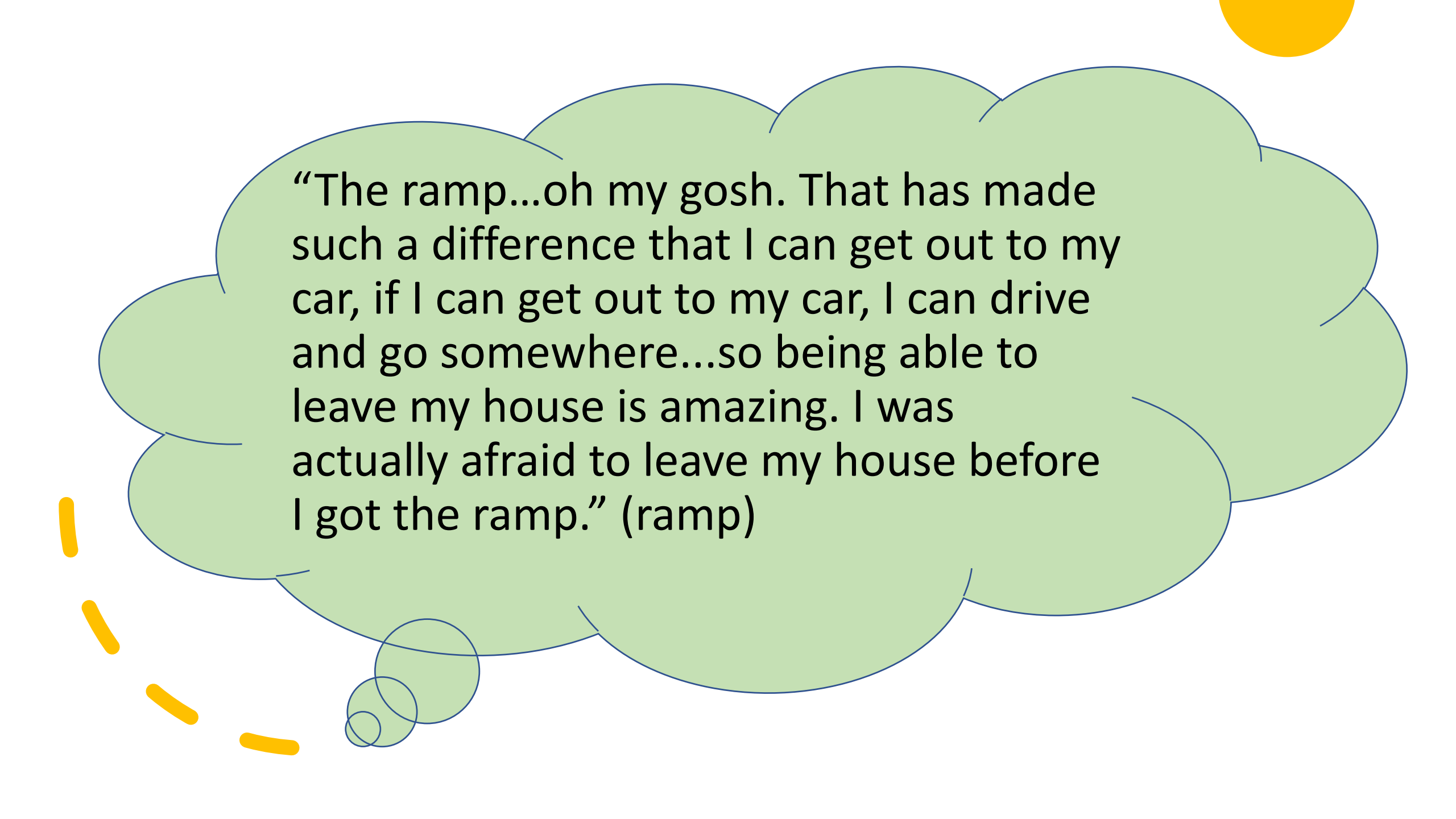
- Home Usability is about the interaction between an individual and their home environment
 - It is constantly evolving/changing as bodies and environments change
 - Your ability to do the things you enjoy in your home impacts your feelings about yourself and your home
- Home usability recognizes that individuals need individualized solutions to meet their unique needs and abilities.

Home Usability Solutions

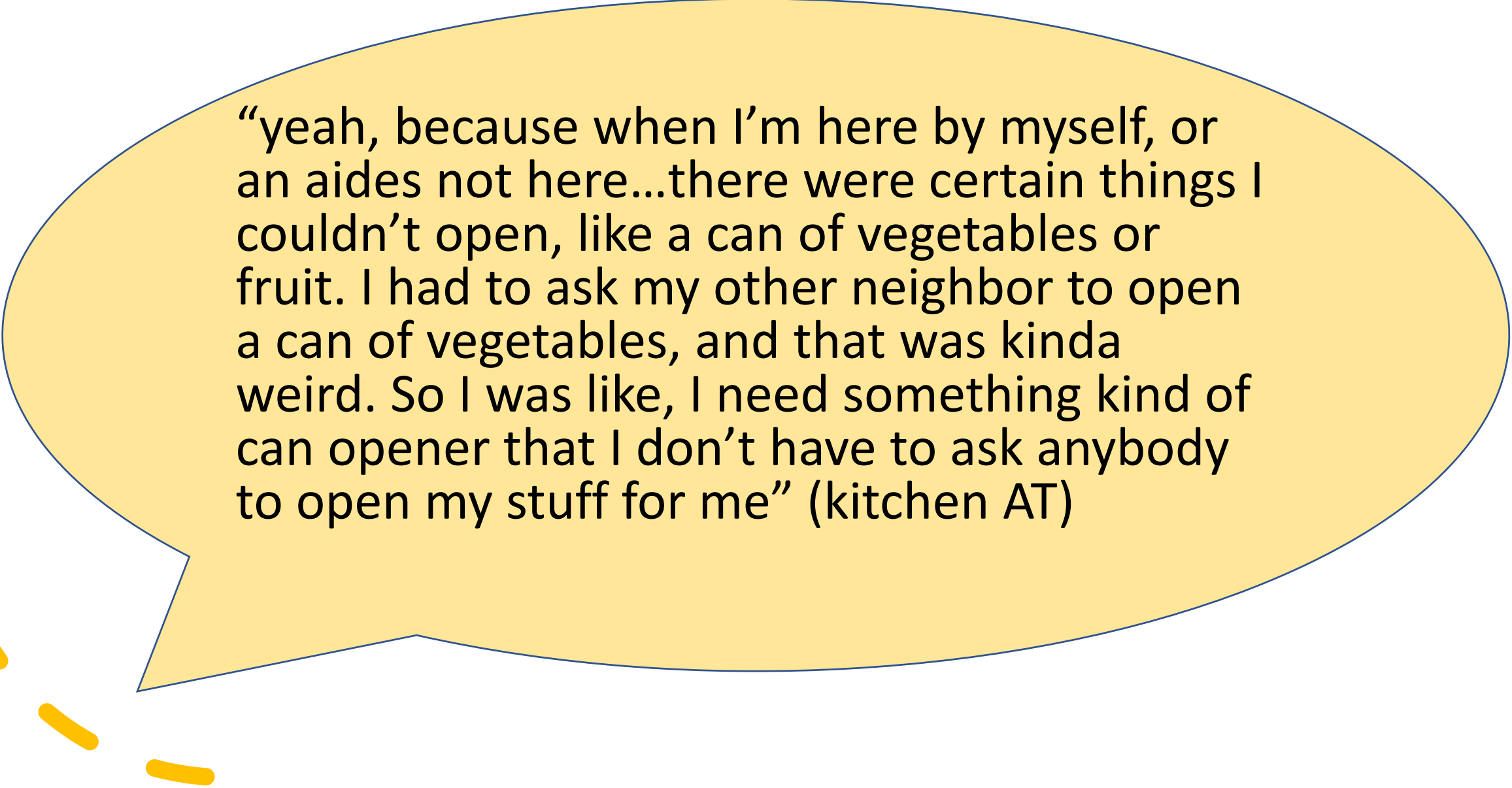
- **Bathing and grooming:** Grab bars, shower chairs, non-slip mats, electric toothbrush
- **Cleaning:** Robot vacuums, long handled dusters, storage bins
- **Mobility:** Mobility devices such as walkers and canes, reacher/grabbers
- **General safety:** Fire extinguishers, medical alert devices, handrails
- **Entrancing:** Hand railings, video doorbells, threshold ramps and ramps
- **Cooking:** Adaptive cooking equipment, under cabinet lighting, kitchen stools
- **Sleeping:** New mattress, mattress pad
- **Dressing:** Assistive equipment, sturdy furniture in bedroom
- **Furniture/household items:** lift recliners, accessible desk, chairs and stools for resting, rolling carts, electronics (including laptops)



“...so that means that I don't have to use the energy to go to the door and open it, find out who is on the other side. And I can make decisions about when I need to go to the door...and [I feel safer] since I don't need to utilize as much energy doing the mundane then throughout the day I've noticed like my balance is better” (Video door bell)



“The ramp...oh my gosh. That has made such a difference that I can get out to my car, if I can get out to my car, I can drive and go somewhere...so being able to leave my house is amazing. I was actually afraid to leave my house before I got the ramp.” (ramp)



“yeah, because when I’m here by myself, or an aides not here...there were certain things I couldn’t open, like a can of vegetables or fruit. I had to ask my other neighbor to open a can of vegetables, and that was kinda weird. So I was like, I need something kind of can opener that I don’t have to ask anybody to open my stuff for me” (kitchen AT)

Resources for home usability solutions

- Useablehome.com
- [State AT programs](#)
- Access 2 Independence of Easter Iowa Corridor's Zero Installation list
- Infographics from homemods.org

Discussion and experiences

- What types of home usability challenges have you seen with your consumers?
- What creative home usability solutions have you employed (for consumers or for yourself)?
- What resources would support you in implementing home usability solutions?
- What community partners have you/could you work with for identifying home usability solutions?