

MOBILITY-CHALLENGED REDISCOVER THE JOY OF SHABBOS

It all started when HaRav Shlomo Zalman Auerbach, *zt"l*, became aware of a young woman in his Jerusalem neighborhood of Shaare Chesed who was paralyzed from the waist down and who spent her Shabbosim isolated and in despair because she could not use her motorized wheelchair. HaRav Auerbach ardently believed that Shabbos should be a time of joy for everyone, and that a *halachic* solution must be found to ensure that those with physical challenges be included in the great *mitzva* of *oneg Shabbos*.

HaRav Auerbach summoned a team of leading observant engineers led by Rav Yisrael Rozen of the Zomet Institute and tasked them with a mission. After nearly one year of research and experimentation, the first Shabbos wheelchair was born. More recently, under the guidance of HaRav Yehoshua Neuwirth, *zt"l*, author of the famed *Shmiras Shabbos Kehilchasa*, Shabbos technology was expanded to include stairlifts and wheelchair lifts. New York-based ShabbosLift Solutions now offers the ShabbosLift, the stairlift with the Shabbos mode.

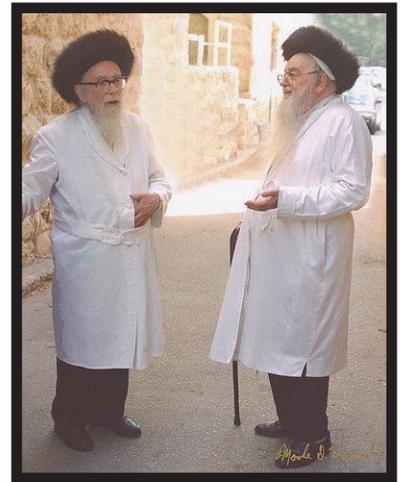
The ShabbosLift was inspired by a phone call to Gavriel Gozland of Riverdale, New York. A woman from Long Island sought out his help after her elderly mother, who was alone for Shabbos, was forced to remain in bed for 25 hours without food because she could not walk down the stairs without assistance. She had a stairlift which she would use during the week, but on Shabbos, she made arrangements to sleep downstairs. She would always take a short nap Friday afternoon after having prepared Shabbos, and one Friday afternoon, she overslept. When she woke up, it was

already well into Shabbos. She spent all of Shabbos stuck in her bedroom with no food, no Kiddush, and not even her medications! It was her worst Shabbos.

Her daughter frantically asked around if there was some sort of halachic solution to prevent this situation from ever occurring again, and then found Gavriel Gozland. They retrofitted her lift with a Shabbos system. "She doesn't miss an opportunity to tell us how it changed her life and her mother's life," says Gozland. "In fact, she has referred three friends to us, and we speak every *erev chag* to wish each other *chag sameach* ever since.

"The ShabbosLift gives people the peace of mind to know that they or their loved one can stay in their own home or with their children and grandchildren, in comfort and safety. It enables individuals with limited mobility to reclaim their dignity, and it helps families come together for Shabbos and Yom Tov," says Gozland.

What started as a one-time *chesed* quickly developed into much more as they discovered the extent of the need. ShabbosLift Solutions has since evolved into a full fledged boutique provider of stairlifts, wheelchair lifts, and even home elevators



with a mobility-friendly Shabbos mode. Their focus and passion remains helping people with mobility challenges, young and older, to regain their independence and dignity, and to partake in the joy of the Shabbos.

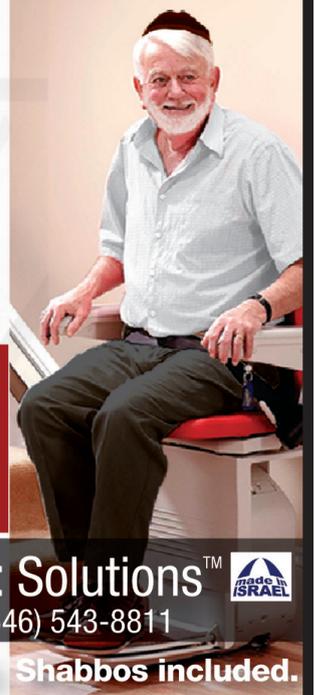
Recently, ShabbosLift Solutions has expanded its service to Baltimore and now offer their service to our community. They can be reached at 1-855-SHAB-LIFT or 646-543-8811. ■

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