

The Langridge Family

“Room to Grow”

Obviously, a man with over 800 friends needs his own apartment.

Brent Langridge, an active twenty-six year old with Down’s syndrome, had his own room in his parent’s Pitt Meadows home, but it was cramping his style. “He needed room to grow,” his mom Wendy says, of her affable and outgoing son. So with a grant from Giving in Action’s Family Independence Fund, Brent’s parents transformed their downstairs rec room into a self-contained bachelor pad.



The results? “We kind of miss him,” says Wendy. “He has become a lot more independent. We hardly see him anymore. He usually handles breakfast and lunch by himself. I still make dinner, but he usually just comes upstairs to get it, then takes it downstairs and eats down there!”

The family did most of the renovation work themselves, adding a kitchenette, living room, and a large master bedroom with a bright red wall — Brent’s special décor request. Wendy says Brent has been doing a great job taking care of his place: “He cleans it, and tidies up after himself, which he wasn’t doing when he was living upstairs,” says his mom. “We told him he had to be responsible for the place, and he is.”

The suite is spacious enough that Brent can live there with his wife, when he meets the woman of his dreams—one of this ambitious young man’s many goals. In the meantime, Brent’s keeping himself busy with his job at the Ramada Inn, and his Sun Hang Do martial arts training (Brent has already achieved red belt, black stripe level.) And of course, he has to keep up with his impressive Facebook page, where the popular guy has 820 friends (so far). Brent’s many Facebook pals can watch videos of his martial arts workouts, or browse photos of the packed open house where Brent showed off his new abode to his community.

“Having his own apartment has taken Brent to a whole new level,” says Wendy. “It’s been a really great thing for our son. He’s very happy, and we’re very proud.”

