

My Transition Story

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I am 19 years old. I have a disability called DD, which means I am developmentally disabled. When my parents first adopted me in England the doctors and then adoption agency told them I wouldn't ever be anything. They said I wouldn't be able to read or write. I was moved to America from Europe when I was about six years old. When I moved to the states a lot of people made fun of me because of my disability. When I got into high school I tried to commit suicide because I didn't want to live with my disability and have people make fun of me and put me down forever.

My Junior of high school was the hardest. I turned eighteen and was kicked out of my father's house because I couldn't follow his rules. I currently live in an adult family home. My senior year was the best year of my life. I had a lot of friends and I was even crowned the class of 2004 Homecoming King. This was also the year that I decided to take a stand. I got a work experience position working for the Spokane Public Schools Equity Educational Support office. There I was allowed to teach other students about others differences and how to prevent bullying and harassment in their schools. I also shared with many of the students at my presentations my story.

This is my first year in a special education program called Community IMAGES. Community IMAGES has been the second biggest part of my transition. At Community IMAGES I am learning life lessons that will help me when I graduate. We are learning to be accountable with our schedules which is something I'm really working on. I am also working on my social skills and working with others. It has been a joy being in IMAGES and I will graduate next year.

I truly owe a lot to the equity team because they helped me accept me for who I am and not what others perceived me to be. I am grateful for all the people who have helped me in my quest for greatness. To anyone who has ever been told they can't accomplish their goals don't let people tell you that for you can do anything that you set your mind to just believe in yourself and have the self-determination to achieve your goals and I promise you will be successful. When I look back and see where I was back then and see where I am now I thank God that I didn't take my life that day for I have accomplished so much more than anyone ever thought I would.