

Know Me

NAME

Lucy

PASSION

Kindness

My Story

I am Lucy Marie Rose, and I have Down Syndrome. It is one of the many things that makes me different than other people you know. But there is a lot about me that is just like any other 23 year old.

I was born in the Cleveland area, and almost immediately started speech therapy and received early intervention through the local Board of Developmental Disabilities (DD).

When I was 3 years old, my parents and I, and younger brother Greg, moved to Jackson Township.

Soon after we moved, I started riding in the Pegasus Farm therapeutic horseback riding program, and have ridden there weekly ever since. I ride totally independently now.

I started speech therapy with Community Speech Services in Green, where I worked hard with my therapists for almost 20 years.

School began with the SCIP program (Stark County Integrated Preschool) before I entered Strausser Elementary.

I loved my amazing teachers in elementary, middle and high school and made some great friends along the way.

In fact, all the people from the school district, Board of DD and the county, who helped me through my school years, were such a blessing.

In 2011, my freshman class at Jackson High School elected me to be the Homecoming Attendant; it was so fun to be in the parade and have my proud parents walk me across the football field!

I was in the Hospitality Job Training Program at Glen Oak during my junior and senior years, and learned so much.



In my graduation year, I was honored to be selected as the Senior Prom Queen.

My Service and Support Administrator through Stark County DD has done a great job in helping us understand how the adult DD world works.

After earning my high school diploma and graduating with all my friends, I started a program at EchoingU, where I learned job and social skills to help prepare me for the next phase of my life.

I have also gone to Camp Echoing Hills, which is a week in the summer in southern Ohio. I love going there!

Several times I have attended Camp Jukebox, a week-long summer dance camp ending with a performance at Canal Days.

My father and I have done some public speaking over the years, which I enjoy, and it led to me signing with a talent agent in Los Angeles. After trying for several parts, I auditioned to be the lead in a feature movie. After multiple interviews, the movie producer flew me and my father to LA for a week of working with an acting coach. After their nationwide search, I am one of two finalists for the role, and hope to find out soon if I got the part.

In 2018, I was one of the top 15 finalists in the NFL Hall of Fame Pageant. That was a lot of work but very fun. I was the first contestant with Down Syndrome that they have had in the Pageant.

I currently attend Meadowbrook Services to help develop job skills, and work with Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities and Advanced Employment Connection to prepare myself for a job in the community.

I look forward to the upcoming opening of Gigi's Playhouse, A Down Syndrome Achievement Center, where I hope to attend and maybe even volunteer.

When the Whole Latte Love Café opens, I would like to work there to gain job skills.

My Down Syndrome is part of what makes me different, but it is only one thing, and it doesn't define me. What makes YOU different?



Know Stark DD



**Stark County Board of
Developmental Disabilities**

Supporting People with Disabilities & Their Families