

Know Me

NAME

Shawn

PASSION

Church

My Story

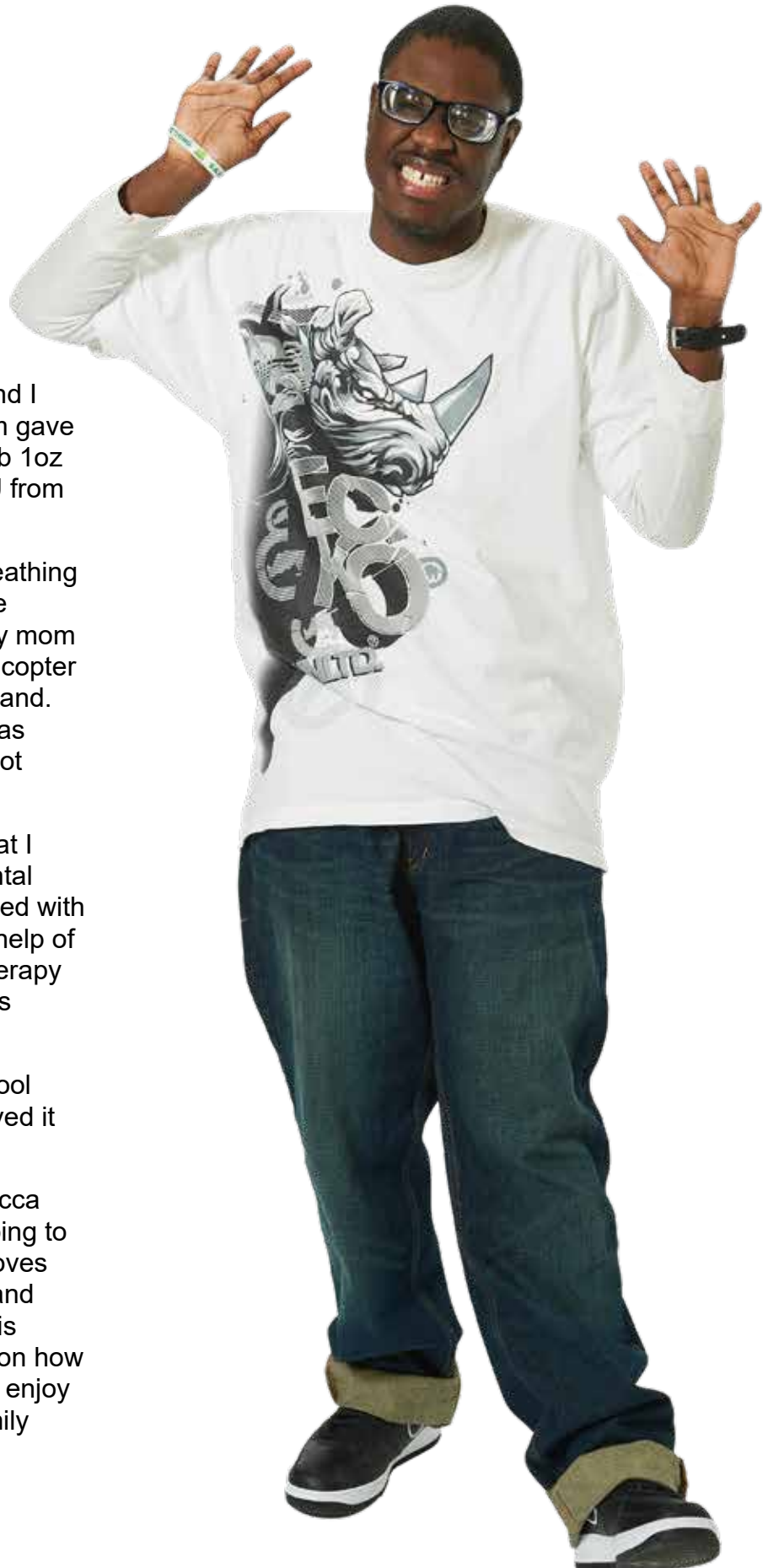
My Name is Shawn M. McElroy Jr. and I was born January 13th 2003. My mom gave birth to me at 25 weeks. I weighed 1lb 1oz and stayed in Aultman Hospital NICU from January to May.

Soon after going home, I stopped breathing and my mom did CPR on me until the Paramedics showed up. They told my mom she saved my life. I was flown by helicopter to Rainbow Babies Hospital in Cleveland. My family knew from then on that I was going to be a fighter because I was not giving up.

As I began to grow my mom knew that I was going to have some developmental delays especially after being diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder. With the help of Physical Therapy & Occupational Therapy I learned to walk and Akron Children's Hospital became our second home.

When I was old enough I started school at Stark DD Eastgate Preschool. I loved it there and especially the graduation.

Then it was time to move on to Rebecca Stallman Southgate School. I love going to school and riding the bus. My mom loves when I walk down the hall at school and everyone knows who I am. The staff is always giving my mom compliments on how well-mannered I am and how they all enjoy working with me. That makes my family proud.



YouTube

Outside school activities, I enjoy Step practice with my brother Jerrimiah, who is the coach for the team. I also enjoy music (hip hop & gospel), going to the movies, indoor waterparks, bowling, eating out at Red Lobster & Olive Garden, relaxing in my room watching my favorite shows Paw Patrol & Madea Movies, hanging out with my brother and trips with Grandad to McDonalds. I absolutely love going to church every Sunday.

I have overcome many obstacles and there is nowhere to go but up from here. I'm blessed to have my family. We Are a Team!

Stark DD has been a great resource for my family. They helped us with services as far as getting a fence put up in our back yard. Stark DD schools have taught me so much and I'm still learning. The staff is patient and caring. The work program that I'm in helps me prepare to become an adult and learn how to work in society and I just want to say "Thanks."



Know Stark DD



**Stark County Board of
Developmental Disabilities**

Supporting People with Disabilities & Their Families