

Know Me

NAME *Heather*

PASSION *Art*

My Story

I have wanted to become an author and an illustrator my entire life. I remember being three years old watching cartoons and thinking I can do a better job at designing characters than that. In elementary school I used to draw in the margins of my papers. At home I drew from the moment I left school until the moment I went to bed.

Today I am working hard to become a freelance illustrator by obtaining a degree in illustration through online courses. I currently do pet portraits on my Etsy store, **Tomaractus Treasures**. Some of my work can also be found at Just Imagine Gift Gallery in the Canton Arts District. In the future I plan on designing my own intellectual property brands.

I know all too well the stigma mentally handicapped people face. Online schools are so important. I was miserable at a public school, but when I switched to online I excelled rapidly and loved learning. Not everyone fits into the mold of a public school.

I had an art teacher in middle school who believed I was going to be a great artist. Mrs. Givens felt compassion for those of us with DD. She impacted my life.

My relationship with God is the strongest point in my life. My life is a testimony to God's power. God is always there for me. I am who God says I am, not who people say I am. They didn't create me or give me life. They don't determine my value. God does.



Books are keys to the world. I've read around fifty Joyce Meyer books. She is my favorite author. She teaches people how to think positive and it really transformed me. I find myself to be a happy person and I really enjoy life. That is not how it used to be. Even though I still have many struggles, I have harnessed the power of a transformed mind. I feel like reading has made my mind from a caterpillar into a butterfly.

Grandpa was in the front lines of World War II. He was also an MIA. Grandpa suffered from PTSD after the war. Mom always taught us we should live life worthy of our veteran's sacrifice. Dad was a Vietnam veteran. Even though Grandpa struggled daily with PTSD, he was a positive thinker who never gave up. He had an amazing spirit. Everyone in my family says thank you to the veterans and everything they gave for our freedoms. I have really great parents.

I try to practice gratitude everyday and know

I can't focus on the bad.



Know Stark DD



**Stark County Board of
Developmental Disabilities**

Supporting People with Disabilities & Their Families