

Know Me

NAME

Cheni

PASSION

Baby Take

My Story

I am very excited to be an ambassador for Stark DD and would like to share a little information about myself. I have been working very hard to share information using voice output devices whether it is answering questions during group activities, telling staff which activities I wish to do during leisure time, or requesting my favorite foods during breakfast and lunch. It is so powerful to be able to communicate with those around me. I love engaging with the school staff and my classmates during recess.

The thing I am making great strides in is walking in the hallway with the therapy staff. I didn't use to be such a fan of walking, but now I am more able to enjoy the time out of my wheelchair and the new perspective it gives me as I travel through the halls.

Strengths:

My smile is contagious and I love to share it with my classmates and teachers. Not to brag, but I also give really good hugs and my arms are ready anytime, so go ahead, "bring it in"!

Dreams for the future:

My dreams for the future are to keep learning and improving my skills at my own pace. I wish for everyone to see my potential and what I can do, rather than my disability.



Triumphs

I have a large family and we speak Ki'che at home. It's a language spoken in Guatemala; it's similar to Spanish. Attending a school where most staff and students speak English can be very difficult. Stark DD provides a translator when my family needs help. I feel I have gained an understanding of the English language to allow me to participate effectively during the school day. I have also had some medical concerns over the past couple of school years, but I keep trying my best so that I can keep learning and improving my skills.



How has Stark DD helped me?

My school staff have always believed in me and had high expectations for me, sometimes higher than I had for myself. They encourage me, care for me, believe in me, and help me become the best that I can be. Most recently, they helped me get a new wheelchair. It is a beautiful purple and it is so comfortable, I love it. The school staff has taught me many skills and I am so thankful for them.



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**Stark County Board of
Developmental Disabilities**

Supporting People with Disabilities & Their Families