

Know Me

NAME **Nictoria**

PASSION **Music**

My Story

Nictoria Sharpe was born September 17, 2008, a healthy baby and the youngest daughter of many siblings. She is the daughter of Kevin and Shandalyn Copeland.

At around six weeks she started having seizures. Unbeknownst to us we thought it was just flu-like symptoms, and rolling of her eyes. We rushed to the hospital, where she stayed for two weeks until they could stabilize her seizures. Nictoria was diagnosed with Spastic Quadriplegic Cerebral Palsy, Anoxic Brain Injury, sleep disorder, Complex Partial Seizure Disorder, and Cortical Visual Impairment. Because of the Cortical blindness, Nictoria looks sideways to have a clearer view of things. "To this day we do not know what caused her disabilities," said Shandalyn.

"Despite her disabilities, Nictoria loves family outings, to listen and dance to music, and her favorite food is spaghetti," said Shandalyn. "When you get close enough, she holds out her arms to be picked up or hugged or pulls your head close to give you a kiss. We have a new family member, her puppy, Isabella, that she loves spending time with."

continued



FAMILY



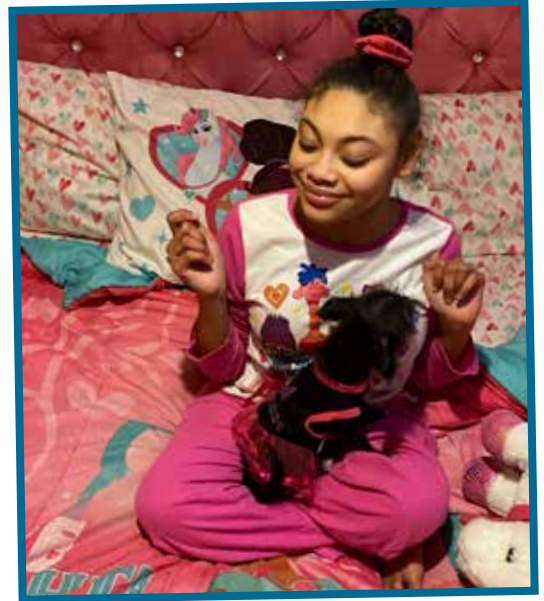
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As an Alliance resident, Nictoria attends Stark DD's Rebecca Stallman Southgate School. Southgate School currently enrolls over 100 students in grades K-12 from Stark County.

"Nictoria is a sweet and loving girl who will often reach up for hugs at school. She enjoys listening to music and getting out of her wheelchair and sit on the beanbag to listen to signing time," said Stark DD Intervention Specialist Katelyn Vasilliu. "She enjoys wheeling herself around in the gym during recess, despite her visual impairment, with assistance from staff for safety. She is always excited at school and willing to participate."

Although Nictoria is non-verbal and mostly communicates with switches, Mrs. Vasilliu said some of her favorite phrases to say are "yum-yum" or "eat-eat" when she is hungry, and "up-up" when she would like to get out of her chair. "She has been doing a fantastic job feeding herself at school with assistance from staff to scoop onto the spoon." Nictoria enjoys completing classroom jobs, especially shredding.

"We have watched her grow into a young lady," said Shandalyn. "Through all of her appointments, her therapy sessions and sleep studies, we have overcome them all. She has taught us patience, how to be humble and to look at life with a better outlook. We wish we could do more or take her pain away. She is truly a blessing and lights up the room with her smile. We couldn't be more honored to have her part of our family. She is a true warrior and is not alone. She has a good, strong support system behind her. We know she is not done with the accomplishments she is still going to do in life."



Know Stark DD



**Stark County Board of
Developmental Disabilities**

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