

Know Me

NAME **Ben**

PASSION **Computers**



My Story

Benjamin Cain is 31 and lives with his mom, Pat, in Alliance. Ben has Cerebral Palsy, is deaf in his left ear and has right side weakness and a speech impediment. He has had corrective jaw surgery and speech therapy.

Ben received help from Early Intervention Services as a baby. He has had physical and occupational therapy since he was born.

Stark DD has been a part of Ben's life since he was a young child. He went to Eastgate Early Childhood and Family Center as a small child. He then started special education classes in his home school district of Marlinton. With the help of Stark County Educational Service Center (ESC) Ben finished school in Plain School District and got his diploma from Marlinton High School. Ben also played baseball in the Challenger Baseball League for years.

continued



YouTube

After graduation he worked at Higgins Workshop through The Workshops Inc. (TWi). Then this past March, Therese Heitkamp, Stark DD Service and Support Administrator (SSA) helped Ben start exploring how to make his passion a vocation.

Ben is currently attending Jason's Place, a community provider, that focuses on educational services and special needs tutoring. He works five days per week and has learned to read along, with other education skills. He has always liked graphic art and is now start to learn coding and has put together a robotic car from scratch. "Jason's Place has done so much for him," said Pat, Ben's mom.

Ben currently has a Medicaid Home and Community Based Services Level 1 waiver to help fund his services. He attends Jason's Place, a community provider, for Adult Day Support, Vocational Habilitation and non-medical transportation to get to and from work.

He is interested trains, history, especially WWII, video games, and graphic-making movies. He likes to bowl, play miniature golf, playing video game, learning from YouTube and going to movies.

Ben would like to go the college. His dream job would be to work with computers and robotics.

"Without the help of Stark DD and my SSAs I probably would not be where I am now," said Ben.



Stark DD SSA Therese Heitkamp and Ben



Ben with mom, Pat

Know Stark DD



**Stark County Board of
Developmental Disabilities**

*Supporting choices and creating opportunities
for people with disabilities & their families*