



Stark County
Board of
Developmental
Disabilities

HELP FOR GOOD

Hudson



Hudson

By Corey and Cassidy Jones, parents

Hudson was born with what doctor's would describe to us as "club feet" and a broken right femur. This led us to spending some time at the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) at Nationwide Children's Hospital for observation and tests. Following our two-day stay, it was determined that everything with Hudson's anatomy was great and through a year or two of bracing - Hudson would have mobility with his lower extremities. After a scary 48 hours, we welcomed Hudson Michael Jones home to celebrate the newest member of our family and his older brother (Braxton's) birthday.

It wasn't until Hudson's first neurology check-up where we were told that Hudson's challenges were going to be greater than expected. With a fully healed right femur - Hudson showed very little mobility and muscle tone in his lower extremities. The doctor ordered a genetic test and at 10 months old Hudson was diagnosed with [Spinal Muscular Atrophy Lower Extremity Predominance \(SMA-LED\)](#). Hudson would live his life with low muscle tone throughout his body, limited use of his lower extremities, and have delays with his cognitive development. After that appointment, we knew his diagnosis and the challenges that were ahead - what we didn't know was how Hudson's attitude and determination would inspire his entire family.

Hudson has a passion for everything and anything that involves Pixar's Cars and Toy Story. He enjoys pizza and movie night with his family, splashing in the bathtub with his brother, and getting "artists hands" while coloring with his markers. And, as a 3-year-old toddler - Hudson has passionately taken on the responsibility of never sitting still, pestering his older brother, and getting into everything that he is not supposed to.



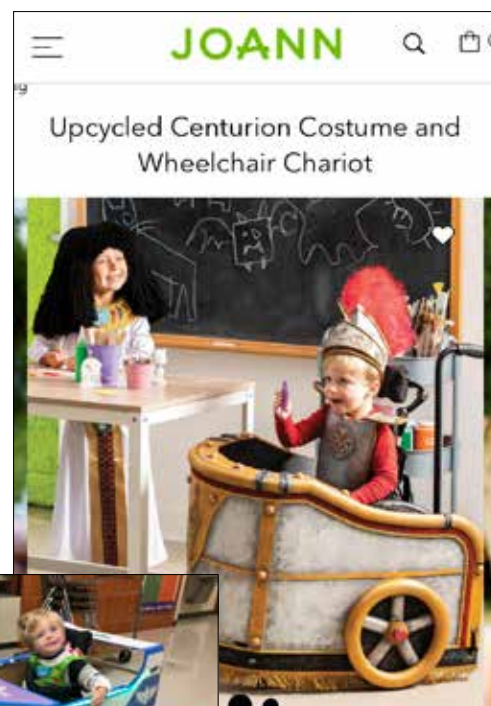
The one thing that all of his therapists say is that Hudson's biggest strength is his determination. Whether it is working on reaching for a toy in a supported sit with his physical therapist, twisting a bottle cap on and off with his occupational therapist (OT), or picking the correct puzzle piece during speech - Hudson's persistence has allowed him to make great improvements in his abilities.

We would say that Hudson's greatest strength is his attitude. He is always happy and smiling and it has become infectious to the people around him. As far as dreams for the future - we hope that Hudson continues to give everything he has into everything he does...and to do so with a smile on his face.

Throughout his life, Hudson has overcome a fractured right femur, eye surgery to straighten both his eyes, and a failed swallow test that nearly lead to a feeding tube. With the help of his OT, Hudson was eventually able to safely eat solid foods; now we cannot get him to stop. At two years old, Hudson mastered maneuvering his manual wheelchair and this past fall, he independently got himself into a sitting position.

Stark County DD has been an amazing resource for Hudson's journey. Stark County Early Intervention provided semi-weekly physical therapy sessions this past year. They loaned us equipment and helped us get a GO-TO Seat for Hudson that we take everywhere we go. Stark DD's Eastgate Preschool has been a wonderful experience for both of our boys. Hudson loves riding the bus and screams, "BUS" the moment it rolls down our street. The teachers and staff are amazing and we can't thank them enough for what they do for Hudson.

Watch [Hudson get his first wheels](#).



Hudson at Halloween time