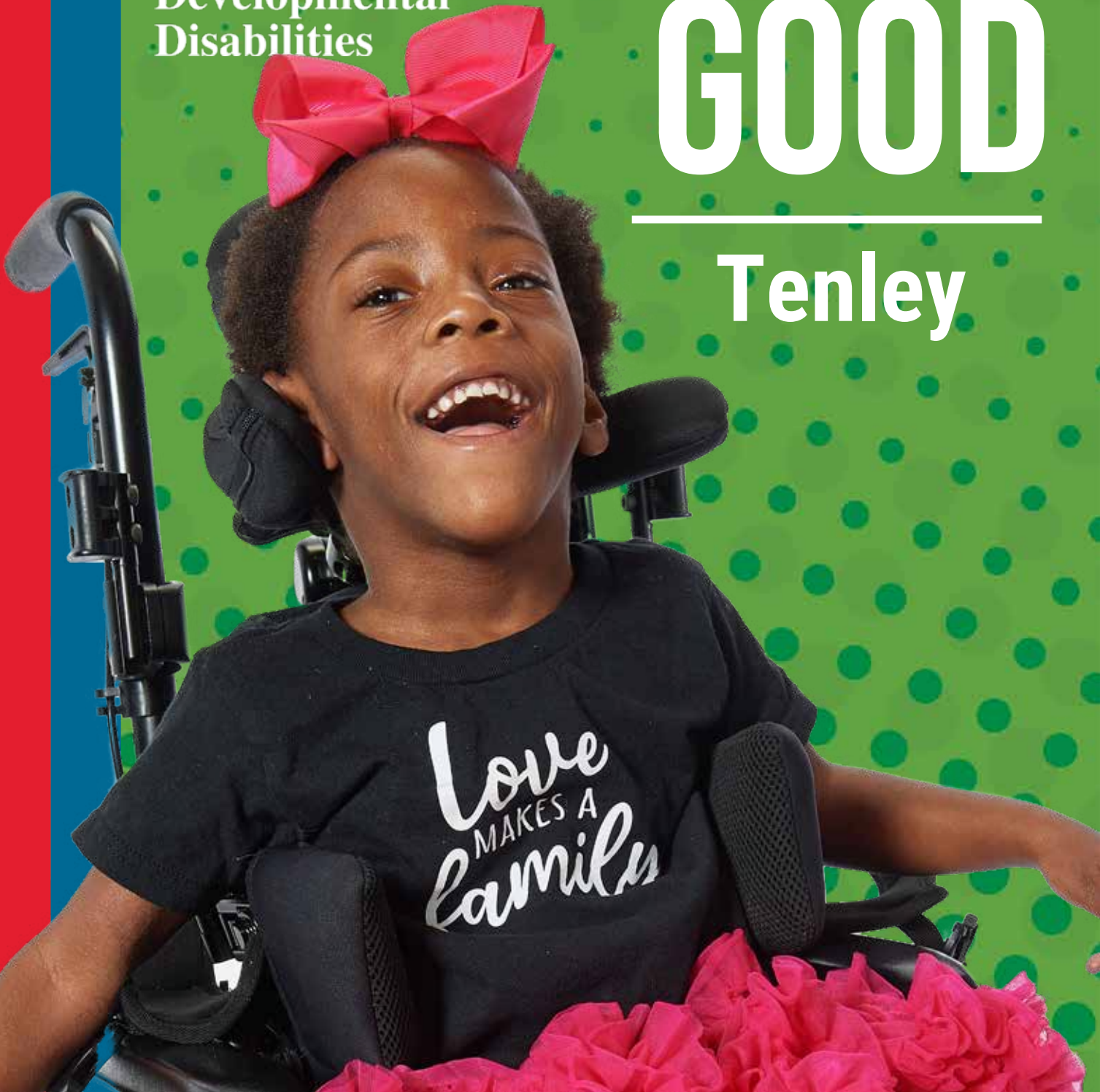




Stark County
Board of
Developmental
Disabilities

HELP FOR GOOD

Tenley



Tenley

Tenley NICOLE Deem was born on Sept 3, 2018. She came into the world 18 weeks early and was a warrior from the very start. She weighed 1lb and was 10 inches long and walked thru 8 months of NICU life. Her journey in the NICU included surgeries, heart stops and restarts, pokes and prods and many days just trying to learn how to stay alive. She was surrounded by nurses who loved her and helped her to thrive during that time before we met her. We are so thankful for the love they lavished on her!

We met Tenley thru foster care when she was 8 months old and for the first time ever she left the hospital for home. We walked thru life with Tenley and along the way came a lot of diagnoses; cerebral palsy, epilepsy, cortical vision impairment, bronchopulmonary dysplasia and reflux issues. She has a GJ tube and is fed mostly overnight slowly, she does not communicate by speaking, she wears orthotics and rides around in her awesome, sparkly, hot pink wheelchair. She is also involved in many therapies in and out of school including OT, PT, speech and vision.

She has walked thru many things in her 4 years of life; many surgeries, MRIs, hospital stays, intubations, feeding tube replacements, seizure scares, ambulance rides and probably many more to come.

Despite these many things, Tenley is a happy, smiley girl who has learned how to communicate and interact with her world. She uses her hearing and other senses besides vision to learn about her world and let others know if she's happy, sad or very angry! When she is excited she will smile, laugh, kick her happy feet and/or wiggle



her body. She loves to be with people she's familiar with and if she knows you well she will most definitely give you one of her stunning, light up the room smiles.

Tenley loves her family, loves her friends at school and loves all her pets. Tenley has a big brother, Isaiah, who is 10, a big sister, Victoria, who is 8 and another big brother, Elias, who is 6. Tenley has 3 dogs, 3 cats, a bearded dragon and 17 chickens at home and she loves to hear them all making noise and to hear people talk about them. She loves to go for walks outside, going to church and this summer she loved her first trip to the ocean! She just recently started joining in during worship time at church and she will sing her little heart out to Jesus along with the congregation. It is so sweet!

Tenley worked with Stark DD Help Me Grow from 9 months old until she was 3 years old and now attends Stark DD's Eastgate Preschool. Our experience with both has been nothing short of wonderful. We have been so grateful for Stark DD and all the help and resources they offered to us as a family and Tenley as an individual. Tenley

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loves her teacher and aides and we are just so grateful for each person who helps in her care throughout her days at Eastgate. They love her so big and well.

November as National Adoption Month becomes Extra Special

Tenley was officially adopted by our family on November 3rd, 2022. We love her with all of our being and our family wouldn't be our family without her in it. We know that Tenley had quite a difficult and heart-breaking beginning but what a miracle she is and such a gift from God to our family. She brings joy to every room. She's beautiful and brings hope to so many just by being who she is daily. One miraculous gift. ♥

