

# HELP FOR GOOD

Hadassah



Stark County  
Board of  
Developmental  
Disabilities



# Hadassah

By Grandma Shirley

Hadassah has been diagnosed with Trisomy 21, commonly known as Down Syndrome with developmental delay. She has low muscle tone, she is non-verbal, she is a very petite little girl, she is gastrostomy tube dependent (tube fed), she is allergic to milk, and also had nystagmus. Hadassah came to Ohio in April of 2021.

She has progressed immensely in all aspects with the help and guidance of her many doctors, nurses, specialists, therapists, teachers, and aides as well as all the resources and programs that are available to special needs children. We have the best facilities and programs here in Ohio from GiGi's Playhouse, Akron Children's Hospital, and Stark DD. We have a wealth of information and help at our fingertips. We are also fortunate to have everything so close to us.

Since coming to Ohio, Hadassah is now able to eat orally along with her tube feedings in the hopes of graduating to no longer needing a g-tube.

She could not walk and she was only able to scoot and bear crawl. The first time she had physical therapy the therapist saw in a matter of seconds that she needed ankle braces. Once she got her braces she was able to walk in a short period of time.

She needed eyeglasses along with surgery on her eyes to correct the nystagmus. What a difference that has made in what she is able to do now that she can see. She can match things, she can do puzzle pieces, she interacts, and has just come so far and continues learning all sorts of new things. She has numerous accomplishments.





She receives all of her therapies (speech, physical, occupational) through Stark DD. Everyone from Stark DD who comes in contact with her starting with her bus ride and continuing throughout her day has impacted her development and progress in all areas. We see the new accomplishments and tasks she has learned daily as she will practice them at home.



She has just blossomed into such a sweet little girl and has such a wonderful personality. She loves music, hugs, sparkly things, dancing, she learns and plays games on her computer, she smiles and laughs, she seems to love everyone, she is just a pleasure, so easy going and wants to please. She is a true Blessing!



Our hope for Hadassah's future is that she keeps her smile through life, continues to learn and grow, and is always in the company of those that love her dearly. She is perfect to us just the way she is.



*Hadassah with Grandma Shirley, and Stark DD speech therapist Lori Gowins (left) and Jennifer Petrick, Intervention Specialist (right).*

