

HELP FOR GOOD

Kylen



Stark County
Board of
Developmental
Disabilities





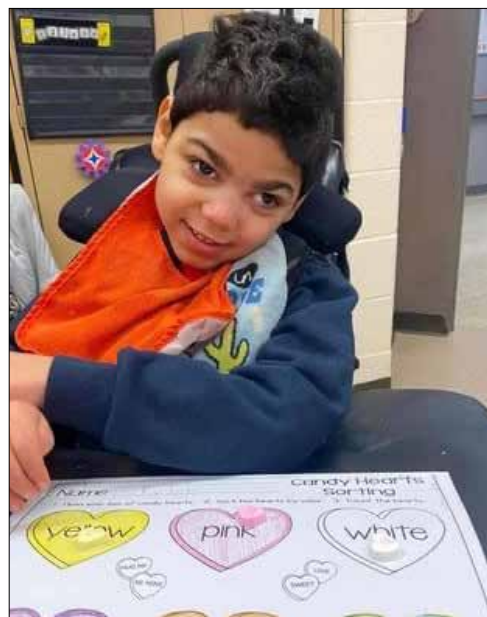
Kylen

Meet 8-year-old Kylen Long, a 3rd grade student at Rebecca Stallman Southgate School.

Kylen was born with seizures, and later was diagnosed with Cerebral Palsy at a young age. He has been through many challenging medical obstacles and lengthy hospital stays throughout his entire life, which also include multiple hip and eye surgeries.

Kylen lives with his parents, Derek and Kelsey, and younger brother Ryder. Kylen started school at Stark DD's Eastgate preschool, and now enjoys learning at Southgate School, where he uses a wheelchair to get around. Kylen is learning to communicate with 'speech switches', with the help of occupational therapy, speech therapy, and physical therapy.

Kylen absolutely loves music, especially



listening to his dad play drums in his band. He always has a smile on his face and loves to be around friends.

In December 2021, Kylen was selected through the 'Wishes Can Happen' program, to fly out to Disney world and stay within the 'Wishes Can Happen Village'. We plan to take him back there soon, as he loved the wheelchair accessible park rides and bright lights! (his favorite).

Kylen's smile and sweet soul always warms the hearts of those around him!

In the future, Kylen will continue to inspire others, as his parents plan to lend a hand to other parents through parent groups and meetings (especially through 'Give kids the world') to always advocate for your child and to be their voice no matter what.

"When situations seem 'out of your hands', never forget that, just like Kylen, giving up is never an option, as you have more strength within than you may realize!"

