

HELP FOR GOOD

Josh



Stark County
Board of
Developmental
Disabilities



Josh

Meet 15 year old, Josh Beorn, son of Jacob and Kelly. He lives at home with his mom, dad and younger 11-year-old brother Anthony who also receives services from Stark DD.

Josh was diagnosed with Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy at 18 months of age. According to mom, Josh likes being a center of attention, and he loves to smile and make everyone smile around him.

Josh loves his family very much, especially his little brother and best friend, AJ. "AJ takes care of him even though he's the little brother," said mom. AJ also has muscular dystrophy, but not so progressed as Josh at this time. AJ also receives services from Stark DD. Josh just recently got a dog named, Ruger, who he loves very much. Josh's maternal grandparents are a great support to the family and Josh's mom and grandma can always be found at any events that Josh participates in.

"Josh is primarily nonverbal, but he knows how to get his point across," said Kelly. "His only word that he knows how to say is 'mama'... ha ha that's the best word!"

Josh is also starting to transition into a wheelchair full-time. Julie Willis, Stark DD Service and Support Administrator-Transition Specialist, has helped that family as Josh's mobility has changed.

"His family encourages Josh to be as mobile as possible and not in a wheelchair full time. Due to his mobility concerns, the family requested assistance from Stark DD to use, along with their own resources, to



build a ramp for Josh to get in and out of the family home. The family did receive the ramp installation in May 2023,” said Julie.

All of Josh’s primary doctors are down in Columbus at Nationwide Children’s Hospital, so the family does a lot of traveling. “He has been through so many tests and procedures, and he just goes with the flow. Such a brave boy,” said his mom.

Josh’s favorite things to do at home are swimming and playing with his light up toys. According to Kelly, he is obsessed with any buttons. He loves, taking walks and riding in the car.

As a student at Stark DD’s RS Southgate School, Josh works on his academics, functional and independent living skills. He loves to spend time with his friends and staff members at school.

According to Joanna St. Clair, Stark DD Intervention Specialist, his favorite thing is to have one-on-one undivided attention from his favorite staff member.

“He loves to ride a bike during adapted physical education, loves listening to the songs during morning meeting, ad loves playing games with his classroom staff.”

“All of his teachers and therapists at Southgate have been wonderful, and really have helped him with his self-help skills,” said mom.

One special moment happened in 2016 when Josh received his wish from Make-A-Wish. “We went to Disney World. He loves rides and Mickey, so that was the perfect place for him,” said mom.

