



## **CHRISTOPHER** Lansing, Michigan

Chris has a smile that melts the coldest hearts. Even though he is non-speaking, he lets you know he has something to say. Whether it's going for a bike ride with dad, swimming in the lake or pool or enjoying music with mom, Chris is filled with joy that he has to share. He is always willing to try something new and loves interacting with everyone he meets. So, if you see him, say "hi!" Christopher is pictured here with his dad.

Christopher is living with cerebral palsy and fetal alcohol syndrome.





**EVA Bath, Michigan**

In June 1999 I was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis (MS) after I went completely blind in my right eye and was unable to stand and walk without the assistance of a cane/walker. I continue to have relapsing MS but can keep it controlled with medication. I did get my sight back in my right eye and now use a cane when there is a lot of walking for me to do or in unfamiliar surroundings. I do my best to live by the saying, "Mind over matter."

Eva is living with multiple sclerosis.





## **LAWSTON** Hudsonville, Michigan

Lawston was born with an abdominal wall defect called a giant omphalocele—his liver, stomach and intestines were outside of his body covered in a sac. Because of his omphalocele, his lungs did not grow well, and this caused him to need a trach and vent to help support his breathing. Lawston isn't letting any of this hold him back. He loves playing with his toys and hugging all his stuffies. He is an opinionated little boy who isn't afraid to tell his family what he wants.

Lawston is living with giant omphalocele, respiratory insufficiency and scoliosis.

**POSITIVE  
EXPOSURE**





**SHARICE** Shelby Township, Michigan

Sharice had brain damage at birth, which caused her developmental disability. She is very social, so going to the workshop with friends is the highlight of her day. The pandemic took Sharice out of her routine, but she is now back to her comfortable, happy life.

Sharice is pictured with her parents, John Breza, DDS, and Donice Breza. Dr. Breza is the chair of the Delta Dental Foundation Board of Trustees.





**ELLEN** Okemos, Michigan

Ellen is the part-time executive director of the Michigan Oral Health Coalition and has her own small law practice. She was born with cerebral palsy, which affects the way that she walks but has never affected her spirit or determination. She won a gold medal in the discus throw at 1996 Atlanta Paralympics. When not working or driving her daughter Nella around, Ellen loves to bake cookies.

Ellen is living with cerebral palsy.





**ARI** Beverly Hills, Michigan

I love to travel, and I've visited six countries. My favorite food is chicken. My favorite person is my sister Jillian. I have a dog named Summer.

Ari is living with autism.





**CHRISTOPHER** Macomb Township, Michigan

Christopher loves to play video games, swim, camp and play with his friends at the neighborhood playground.

Christopher is living with cerebral palsy and epilepsy.