

## Dariviel's Success Story

Twenty-one years ago, our son, Dariviel, was born with liver failure. At six days old he was transferred by air ambulance to Wyler's Children Hospital at the University of Chicago medical center. He was so critical the doctors did not think he would make it over night. They asked if we would authorize an autopsy. One week later, at thirteen days old, Dariviel got a liver transplant. During that critical time, he had a stroke in the brain which caused him to lose his sight and affected his cognitive and communication abilities.



Today Dariviel is a healthy, happy young man attending his last year at his neighborhood high school where he is currently in a new program called Steps. He is learning to run a gift shop. Even though he is blind, cognitively challenged, and has difficulty communicating, he is learning to stock items, memorize prices, push the button on the cash register, and answer the phone. He

also makes things to sell with the help of his aid. He is having a great time.

All through his years of high school, Dariviel has attended chorus class with the regular education kids. He loves to listen to the kids sing and join them whenever he's in the mood. He has a great ear for music and will even tell the teacher when the kids are not singing well by saying "Not so good today." He has participated with the school chorus at the Candlelight Processional in Epcot Disney for the last two years. He will participate again this year, his graduating year. The chorus kids love and respect him. They enjoy having him in class and love to hear him sing. His teacher is an amazing person who enjoys his presence and always makes sure that he is part of the class.

Even though he's gone through rough times and has many challenges, Dariviel has and continues to overcome them. He has been a fighter from day one of his life and will always be a fighter. He loves and appreciates life so much, he never gives up. His life is the most important accomplishment and success!!