

Life has given my 15 year old grandson more challenges than anyone should have. By the time he was 5 he had diagnoses of ADHD, Pervasive Developmental Disorder(mild autism), mild retardation, a mood disorder, and a chronic bowel problem. He lives with me because his mother has similar issues and his dad is not in the picture, so he is also trying to grow up without a mom and dad. Like I said, more than one child deserves. What he wants more than anything is to fit in. I have hope for him and that hope comes partly from the Circle of Friends program. To see that hope all you have to do is look in his eyes. He loves high school and the buddies that come to his room help with that feeling. The differences melt away with each conversation or connection he has made with those buddies.

He was in the Circle of Friends variety program last year for the first time. This year when I brought it up he enthusiastically responded that “of course he was going to do it again.” This is a child who very seldom gets involved in things like this. This is a child who isolates all too often. Anymore at his age he genuinely understands that somehow he is different. That somehow he doesn’t fit in. That there are things he can’t do. But not with Circle of Friends. With this group and the connection that has been made with his buddies at school he feels part of everything. With his involvement in the variety program he can show others that he is more than a child with disabilities. He is a child with talents, abilities, dreams, and a child with a future. A future made brighter because of Circle of Friends. Please help us keep this light burning brightly.

Thank you.