

Outstanding Youth Award Nomination

Award Description:

The Outstanding Youth Award will be presented to an individual under 18 years old or is still in school and who receives children's services. Nominees should excel in the areas of outstanding personal achievement, community involvement and empowerment.

NOMINEE: Lamont McIntosh

ORGANIZATION: Rainbows United, Inc.

Provide a narrative including answers to the following questions. You may also attach a maximum of three letters of support. Additional information may be attached if necessary.

- What challenges has this person faced?
- How has he or she met those challenges?
- What are the person's significant accomplishments?
- What supports are in place for this youth?
- Are there other goals this youth is working on achieving?
- Biographical sketch of the youth and his or her family.

NOMINATION NARRATIVE:

Born at 23 weeks, weighing in at 1 pound 3.5 ounces, Lamont has had an uphill battle from the beginning. He has chronic lung disease, endured 3 retina surgeries, is able to walk due to surgeries on his hamstrings and Achilles tendons plus developmental delays due to his premature birth. Now 18 years old and thriving, Lamont loves basketball and wants to work on cars just like his dad, Marcus.

Lamont enjoys being around other youth and can't wait to attend Rainbows' Camp Woodchuck this summer to interact with his friends. "Lamont makes friends easily," said Tiffany Graf, Family Support Services Coordinator and Camp Director. "He enjoys being a part of a group and participating in fun activities. Like most teen boys, he loves everything related to sports."

A member of the Special Olympics as well as the West High School basketball team, Lamont loves being on the team and shooting the ball into the hoop. He was a part of the West High championship basketball team this past season. A special memory.

The family loves Rainbows and began early intervention services in the family home when their children were born. They continued with Targeted Case Management and when the boys were old enough to go to Camp Woodchuck in the summers they signed up and have been attending ever since. Field trips to the zoo, All Star Sports and Exploration Place are some of his favorite activities.

Lamont attends Chisolm Life Skills Center where he enjoys learning job skills. He's held a job at Textron Aviation as part of the cleaning crew.

Lamont steps up to meet expectations of others and often is the first one to help out when things need to be carried for classroom field trips or other events. In High School he meets his brother at his classroom and wheels him to where he needs to go and to the bus at the end of the day. At home he helps with laundry, mowing the lawn, car maintenance, and other chores. One of his favorite things is to help his dad work on cars.

"Lamont meets his challenges head on and gets over things quickly," said his dad, Marcus. "Having children with special needs has made me a better person. I see Lamont's patience, his joy of life and the simple things, he's a great brother to his twin Adryan who is in a wheelchair. I'm so proud of the man he is becoming."

Lamont loves shoes and has more than anyone else in the family. He especially likes basketball shoes. He also loves to drive go-karts and hopes to drive one day.

Lamont lives with his father, Marcus, his twin brother Adryan and his two sisters: Unique, age 14 and Khaleesi, age 3.

NAME OF PERSON MAKING THIS NOMINATION: Gay Kimble, President

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X I have reviewed and agreed to the criteria for filming the awards video.

X I have obtained approval for this nomination from the submitting agency's Executive Director.

Send this form via email to mshreve@interhab.org

The deadline to submit award nominations is June 2!



Outstanding Youth Award Lamont McIntosh

Rainbows United would like to provide a Letter to give a recommendation for Lamont McIntosh for the 2023 Outstanding Youth Award. He lives in Wichita, Kansas with his father and siblings. Lamont has a twin brother that is in a wheelchair, and he enjoys push him and helping in any way. Lamont has been a part of the Rainbows' family from a young age. He has grown so much over the last several years while participating in Camp Woodchuck. He does not like big crowds but with the help of his Direct Support Professionals he has been able to go out in the community to overcome this. Lamont always has a smile on his face, positive attitude and is excited to be with his friends. He is always willing to help others if they need it and has become a great role model for his peers.

I have known Lamont for 7 years with Rainbows United, where he receives services. He was a very shy and quiet guy. He has become more outgoing and independent. Lamont's communication skills have improved, and you could say that he is a social butterfly now. He touches the lives of everyone who has the opportunity to meet and develop a relationship with him. His smile and laugh is very contagious.

Lamont has participated in the Talent Show at Camp Woodchuck. He has a good memory and does really well with remembering songs. Lamont was able to get in front of a crowd to sing his favorite song with a friend. This was a huge accomplishment for him.

Another thing that Lamont likes to do is look at hot rods, low riders at car shows. His dad will take him to these events in the community. Lamont hopes to be a mechanic when he gets older. Another love of Lamont's is basketball.

Those of us who know Lamont could not be more thrilled and happy for him. Rainbows is grateful to be a part of Lamont's journey and we look forward to all the great things Lamont will do in the future.

Tiffany Graf

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tiffany Graf".

Program Coordinator