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STACIA BOYD



Stacia's Story

"I noticed something was wrong with Stacia's vision when she started sitting closer and closer to the TV. I knew that no child should [have to sit that close] just to be able to see," Carole Wright, Grandmother of Stacia Boyd said.

Stacia was born sighted, but at the age of eight, her vision began to deteriorate. After 10 eye surgeries and frequent visits to the doctor, she lost vision in her right eye and has 20/400 remaining vision in her left eye due to multiple eye diseases.

Carole, a retired geriatric nurse, referred many of her patients with visual impairments to Cleveland Sight Center and that is exactly what she and her daughter, Stephanie did with Stacia.



"I referred many of my clients to Cleveland Sight Center never knowing that I would need [their services] also in my own family," Wright said.

Stephanie, Stacia's mom, passed away in 2019 in a fatal car accident and Carole has become Stacia's main caretaker. Carole said that Stephanie was very involved in Stacia's care and loved how Cleveland Sight Center could help her daughter.

Now, at age 12 and in seventh grade, Stacia is learning to adapt and thrive despite her vision loss. She describes her remaining vision as needing to be two feet away from a person to be able to read their shirt if there are words on it.

Stacia works with Kristen, a case manager from the Children and Young Adult Services Department who helps connect her with services, tools and technology to help maximize her remaining vision. She uses a closed circuit television (CCTV), provided through the agency's Empowerment Fund, to help her access her homework and textbooks by magnifying the print onto a large monitor.

When virtual classes began because of COVID-19, she used a small computer monitor to attend her classes. Due to the small size of the screen, she was struggling to see. Kristen recognized this and loaned her a large screen so she could succeed in her classes with the right tools and technology. Additionally, Kristen played a large role in supporting Stacia when she lost her mom in 2019.

"[Cleveland Sight Center] is a great place of acceptance. It supports you and has all the things that you need. You don't have to pretend or fake your sadness or fears. You can be vulnerable. They don't judge you and it's very supportive. They have a lot of materials that help you make friends," Boyd said.

Since becoming involved with CSC, Stacia has attended summer camp at Highbrook Lodge and various other recreation opportunities that have allowed her to make new friends.

"My favorite part about Cleveland Sight Center is the people there and the sense of self [I have gained]. I gained a sense that I had friends with the same disability as me. And it wasn't just me. I wasn't the only one picked to have this disability," Boyd said. "I have learned to accept that my disability is a part of me."

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