



Educational Advocacy for the Inclusion of Youth

www.missionempower.org/donate

Date
Name
Address
Address line 2
Address line 3

Dear _____,

After all the hardships of this year and the last, Mission Empower wants you to begin 2022 with a sense of hope. Hope for the future rests in the hearts and minds of youth, so we ask that you invest in them today. Just look at Whitney:

Imagine having a stomachache but being told by everyone that you don't. It's *your* body. It's something only *you* can know.

But everyone says you're faking it.

That's what life has been like for Whitney since 2016 when she mysteriously lost her sight and no one—not even doctors—would believe her.



Whitney came to Mission Empower in 2019 to join our Youth ENVISION program. She'd lost all her friends, her beloved sport, basketball, and a whole lot of trust. At Mission Empower, her disability was taken seriously, and she was embraced by our community of awesome kids. In her own words, "the best part of Youth ENVISION was to be around people who all came together as a team regardless of their differences." Encouraged to continue envisioning a bright future, Whitney joined Special Olympics PA. Despite her visual impairment and other health complications that made playing sports so much more challenging, she won a gold medal for basketball in the 2019 Summer Games! She has made many friends since and has attended three Mission Empower Youth Summits!

In addition to boosting Whitney's social life and teaching her skills for navigating the world with a disability, Mission Empower also provided her family with plenty of information on disability rights. When doctors had repeatedly told her parents not to give her a white cane or any other supports because they believed she was faking her disability, Whitney struggled for years without aids that could have been so helpful. Accompanied by a sighted guide ever since she became blind, Whitney was recently able to get that white cane—something that never would have happened if she and her parents hadn't understood their rights and how to advocate for them! Mission Empower inspired Whitney and her family to not only accept but embrace her blindness as a gift. Despite being in the darkness, Whitney never lost her light!

Whitney just reached another huge milestone: after seven years of mystery, uncertainty, frustration, and dismissal, the puzzle pieces of her diagnosis are finally coming together. Whitney has found a doctor who believes her and is working with her to determine a diagnosis. The diagnosis will allow her to have access to more medical services and support, and no longer be met with skepticism by doctors and educators.

Whitney is unstoppable! She still participates in Special Olympics PA and is learning to read braille. She began attending Edinboro University in the fall and will be living on campus in the spring. Whitney wants to become a preschool teacher for the visually impaired to inspire a future generation of youth with her grace and hope.



You want to make a difference in kids' lives.

You know that every child has something unique to offer.

Donate to Mission Empower, where every child is embraced for who they are! Your gift allows more superstars like Whitney to share their gifts and shine their light in this dark world.



Still not convinced you'll make an impact? Let's break it down:

Give **SUPPORT**

\$25

a half-hour of advocacy for parents to be supported to be their child's best advocate

Give **EMPOWERMENT**

\$50

enables two young people with disabilities to attend an empowering workshop

Give **EDUCATION**

\$75

provides 3 hours of tutoring for a child with dyslexia

Give **HOPE**

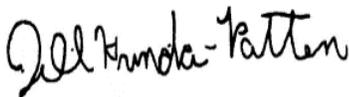
\$100

means recording, editing, and posting a parent empowerment training online, where it can reach an infinite number of parents!

Please complete the enclosed form and return with your donation or donate online at www.missionempower.org. Your gift truly makes a difference!

Invest in the future: invest in a child. The world will be a little brighter because of you.

Warm Regards,



Jill Hrinda-Patten
Executive Director



And the Mission Empower team!

