



Promoting, Rehabilitation, Independence, Dignity, and Education

Huntingdon County PRIDE Incorporated
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Hello PRIDE Supporter! We hope you are enjoying your summer! We have developed this newsletter to keep you updated on PRIDE services and upcoming events that you and your family may enjoy. We look forward to seeing you at one of our upcoming events!



We are looking for volunteers for the **2023 PRIDE Telethon!** We have compiled a list of all of the various jobs. If you have volunteered before or are willing to help for the first time, please go online to fill out the jobs you are able to do. Some jobs require more time than others, but all are greatly appreciated. <https://tinyurl.com/PRIDE-Volunteer> if you do not have access to computer, you can call the PRIDE the office.

Benefits of Early Intervention

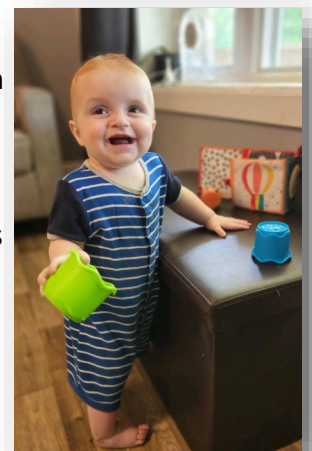


Elijah Thomas has been through a lot for just turning one-year old in July. Elijah was born premature at 35-weeks and was experiencing respiratory distress. After spending time in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit in Johnstown, it was discovered that Elijah had 2 heart defects. Elijah was transferred to Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh, but was later returned home with constant monitoring. In October 2021, after having a heart catheterization procedure to test Elijah's heart, Elijah underwent open heart surgery the next day. Elijah's surgery was successful and he was able to go home and be monitored through outpatient cardiology appointments.



Following the surgery Elijah's mom, Niki and dad, Matt, reached out for services to assist him with his developmental delays. Elijah began receiving Early Intervention Services from PRIDE for Physical Therapy in December 2021. Niki said that having therapy in the home has been a godsend. Keeping it in the home environment makes it more comfortable and helps with avoiding constant travel. When Elijah began therapy Niki said that he couldn't hold his head up on his own. Elijah's cardiologist told the family that he would have delays with crawling and walking, but that hasn't deterred Elijah or his parents. Elijah was able to sit up on his own at 8-9 months and began crawling on his first birthday. Today, Elijah is a crawling machine and getting into everything he can. Niki said that Elijah just started to pull himself up to stand, will

roll balls across the floor, and has the finger grasp to feed himself. Niki reports Elijah is a very happy baby and feels they have benefited from having physical therapy every week. Early Intervention Physical Therapy provides coaching support to families and has helped Niki and Matt work with Elijah in their daily routines outside of their therapy sessions. Elijah's heart condition has also improved and he has graduated to only needing 6-month checkups. Niki and Matt are very proud of Elijah's progress and know he will be walking soon.



Upcoming Events

PRIDE 2022 Wing Off

August 28th

Huntingdon Fairgrounds



Our annual Wing-Off will be held at the Huntingdon Fairgrounds on August 28th from 12:30-2:30.

Event is cash only and wings are \$15/dozen. There are also hot dogs and drinks available. There is seating available or you may get them to go.



We will be auctioning off some remaining 2022 Auction Items on September 20th at 6:00 PM on Facebook Live. Join us for some fun auctioning as we try this first time event.



Join us at Defiant Distillery on September 15th from 6:00-8:00 for a paint party fundraiser with Bluebird Designs By Bex. Cost is \$35. Register online or at the PRIDE Office.



All PRIDE Events are posted on our Facebook Page, Linked-In, Instagram, and on our webpage, www.HuntingdonPride.org. Connect with us on social media to get the most updated information on events and programs, including lists of available equipment. You can also sign up for our email list from our webpage.



Other Ways to Support PRIDE

- Interested in hosting your own fundraiser to support PRIDE? Contact our office for more information



- Donate Online: You can support PRIDE by making a secure, online, credit card donation through PayPal. paypal.me/PRIDE1301



- Amazon Smile: Choose PRIDE as your charity when you shop through Amazon. Amazon donates a portion of your purchase to PRIDE at no additional cost to you. Link is on our website.

- Estate Gifts: By providing a provision in your will, you can leave a lasting legacy and ensure PRIDE is able to continue its mission in supporting Huntingdon County residents with special needs.
- Memorial Gifts: Your gift in memory of a loved one is a lasting memorial. At a time of sadness, it is a way to show love and respect, and to offer hope for the future. You can invite others to give by including PRIDE in your loved one's obituary notice. When you make a memorial or tribute gift to PRIDE, the person or family you designate will be sent a letter acknowledging your gift in their name.

PRIDE is a non-profit, 501(c)(3) corporation. All donations are tax deductible.

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