

SAM V.



Prankster, Communicator, Chill

ME IN A FEW WORDS

My name is Sam V. I was born with Cerebral Palsy and live in Portland, Oregon with my parents. I have a small support group - wonderful care providers who help me with my daily activities. To communicate, I use an ECO communication device. I can pick specific words and build sentences making my communication with others less of a guessing game. I think assistive technology makes my life easier. What I appreciate the most is the ability to be my own advocate.

As an adult, I cherish the opportunity to think, choose and speak for myself. I don't like it when people stare at me because I would like them to come up and say, "Hi!" Right now, I am working with a group of scientists at Oregon Health Sciences University on an

experimental brain interface study. The software would allow me to select the words I want just by thinking about them.

THE 411

In my free time, I like to hang out with friends, get coffee and listen to music on the radio and Pandora. I love to go to concerts, basketball games and dance classes. I love to go to Cannon Beach, Oregon because it is relaxing and has fun shops. When I am at home, I like to watch the news and cook. My favorite food is spaghetti. I'm not home very much because I like to do as many activities in my community as possible. I volunteer at two schools assisting teachers with their students with activities.

A LITTLE MORE ABOUT ME

The worst thing about my wheelchair is that it is not a power chair, but I am working on getting

my power chair working. I'm really good at remembering things; I have an awesome memory. People love my smile and laughter. Playing pranks on people makes me laugh to the point of almost peeing my pants. If I had money to blow I would love to get a new iPad. I can't live without my computer. If I only had one piece of clothing to wear for the rest of my life it would be a suit.

When I was younger, I attended the Building Bridges Camp. I have attended the camp or retreat every summer since 2004. At camp, I learned about other communication devices and what is possible with mine. The camp also allowed me to interact with fellow assistive technology users so that I could communicate with them "device to device."



FAMILY SKI-ALPINE MEADOWS



ME AND MY DAD



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