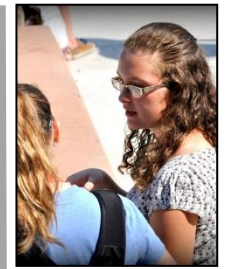


# Bowling, Special Needs, and Lessons Learned

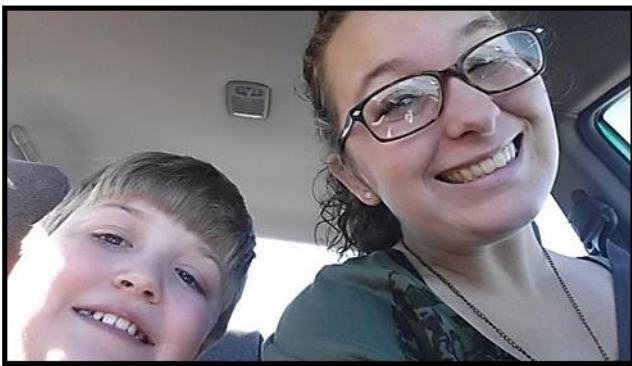
CHERYL KAYE WISNER'S MONTHLY UPDATE



FEBRUARY 2014

Dear Family and Friends,

I never thought that watching a game of bowling would cause me to be teary-eyed, but, then again, this wasn't your ordinary bowling game. I was watching my cousin Korey, and others with special needs, bowl at the Special Olympics in Oklahoma. There were people of all ages around me with a variety of disabilities and struggles, and even though they were different from me, they were all unique and valuable.



*My cousin Korey and me traveling to one of his Special Olympics events.*

The two things that stood out to me most in this community of special needs athletes was the joy and love that surrounded them. I don't know if I've ever been in a room with that many excited people at one time. They were smiling, laughing, and cheering each other on with great passion. Happiness filled the room. Those who weren't competing, such as the family members of those with special needs, surrounded their athletes with care, support, and love. It was inspiring to see the devotion that these families and friends had toward their athletes.

Suddenly I thought of all the conversations I've had in which someone has told me, "Well, if the child is going to have a bad quality of life, I think that abortion should be an option for the parents of those children." I wished that each person who said this could witness what was taking place in that bowling alley. As I observed the athletes around me, it was apparent that having special needs does not entail having a horrible life. I also began to think about the fact that if all of those athletes were suddenly gone, there would be a deep, deep hole in many people's hearts. And, on a much greater scale, there would be an even deeper hole in the world. My cousin Korey, though he struggles with disabilities, brings gifts into my life that only he can give.

It's easy to say that having a "bad quality of life" should be an important factor in the abortion issue. I can agree that growing up with health struggles or living in poverty would be extremely difficult. However, if the unborn and those with special needs are human, then why would their value be based upon external things (like what their life will be like, how intelligent they are, etc), instead of the kind of thing they are? Put simply, we are valuable not because of what we can do, but because we are human beings created in the image of God.

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I must remember that I am also made in the image of God. Sometimes when life gets hard and I get overwhelmed, I want to run away. I want to hide under my covers to protect myself from the potential pain of the outside world. Just like my cousin Korey, I too have gifts that only I can give. Through my epiphany at the bowling alley, God helped me to recognize that He has created me



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in such a way that I can uniquely bless others when I let Him work through me. It's difficult to trust God. It's also difficult to give of myself and share about Him with those around me, but it would be wrong of me to hide and hold back from serving those around me.

In the same way, *you* are a beautiful and uniquely-crafted individual, and you can bless those around you with your gifts. You were also created in the image of God, and He has made you with unique abilities and talents. Don't hide. Learn from me and be the person who God has created you to be.

“You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.”  
(Matthew 5:14-16 ESV)

Blessings and Love,

Cheryl Kaye



*I've participated in outreach several times on Wichita State University's campus. This has given me great opportunities to build relationships with students and talk to them more than once! I've talked to this student several times now and, even though we still disagree on many points, I am looking forward to continuing to move closer to the Truth together. Please pray for him.*

#### Results of My Support Raising:

- As of February 15th, I have reached 84% of my support-raising goal. Praise the Lord!
- As my support has increased, so have my hours working with Justice For All. I am truly blessed!
- As the time approaches for me to begin full-time work with Justice For All, I am filled with excitement!

#### Praise Reports and Prayer Requests:

- Praise the Lord for those Justice For All has been able to train and meet during outreach events. Pray that this training and the conversations that took place as part of it will keep bearing fruit.
- Pray that God would prepare the hearts of those we train as well as those we meet during outreach events.
- Pray for me to be continually joyful and strong in the midst of this challenging work.

**Thank you for your support, prayers, and encouragement!**