Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities Division of Developmental Disabilities



Featured Article

Message from the Assistant Commissioner

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Fact of the Day

Surgeries and Disabilities Do Not Deter Young Poet From His Dreams

hillip B. was born with underdeveloped hands, arms, feet and legs. By the time he was six, he had undergone eight surgeries. Despite a diagnosis of Borderline Intellectual Functioning, Phillip was able to attend Valdosta State University and live on campus. He has a gift for writing poetry, which he attributes to the glory of God. Phillip has won several poetry contests with the International Library of Poetry. In 2007, Poets Speak Out presented Phillip with the Gold Seal Certificate of Excellence. He was also awarded a Gold Seal Certificate from the World Poetry Movement. Phillip has published his own book, "The Testimony of Greatness," which is for sale at bookstores.

The Easter Seals' Family Support and Respite program has been a blessing to Phillip and his family. He utilizes the Family Support program to help fund his membership to the YMCA. His YMCA membership allows him the therapy he needs to work his arms and legs. Phillip also has utilized the Family Support program to purchase his specialized shoes. Without the Family Support and Respite program, Phillip would be unable to receive the services that he greatly needs.

For more information regarding Easter Seals Disability Services, please go to <u>www.easterseals.com</u>.



Left to Right: Brandy Valler, Family Support Assistant, Phillip B., and December Storey, Family Support & Respite Coordina-