

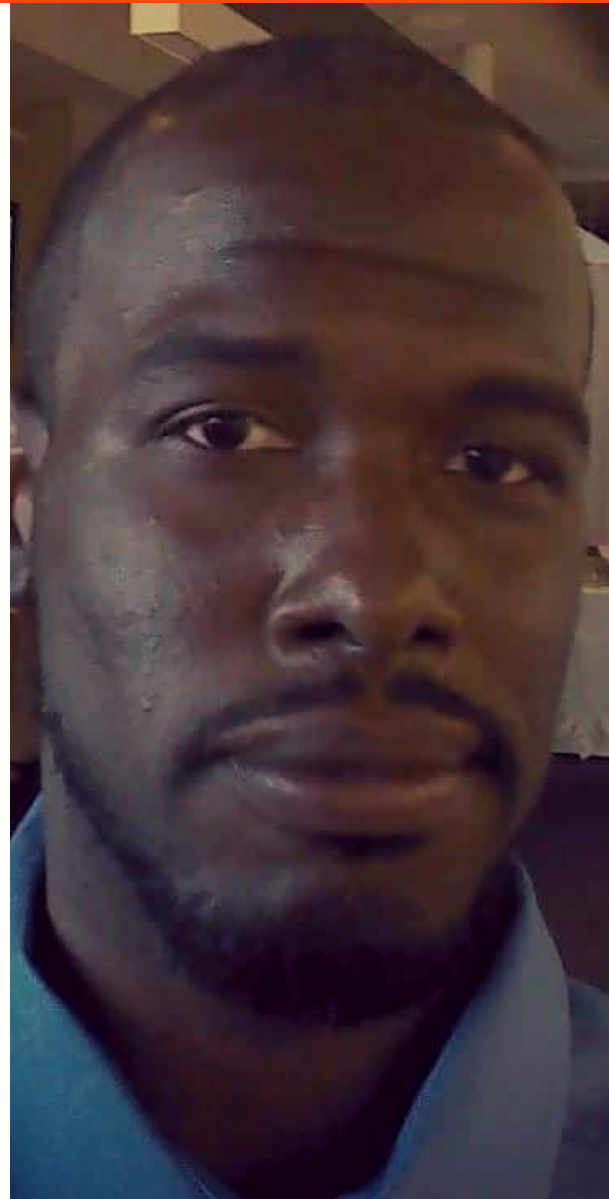
# #ThinkABILITY

## DEWAIN BALDWIN

This is Dewain, a very bright and active man who happens to have autism. People who have autism often get stigmatized and put into a certain category, often times a category of helplessness and even being perpetually child-like. But people like Dewain help make those stigmatizations go away.

Dewain is a very active participant in the community and loves to help others. He has done so many things to help others with disabilities as well.

He also has a passion for cooking and art. His passion for cooking has driven him to find work involving cooking. He has worked at Pei Wei in the kitchen and is now working in the Superdome in the kitchen as well. His passion for art has helped him create amazing pieces of artwork that have the ability to bring admiration and inspiration to others. Art is one of those things that has the power to bring people together, no matter the circumstance.



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Dewain is a part of People First Louisiana, which has led him to be able to participate in public speaking and motivate others. His self-advocacy skills are such an important aspect of his life, because of it, he has been able to move forward with his life and inspire others to do the same.

Dewain has also worked with LSUHDC in their Cooking Matters course, in which he co-taught a six-week cooking course for others with disabilities. Through this course, he combined his self-advocacy skills and love for cooking together to share his knowledge and encourage others to become more independent.

Here is a quote from Dewain:

*“It should be a two-way street, not a one-way street. If we all come together, we could do some amazing things. But sometimes people do not understand us, so we have to show them we are more than what they see. I’m always looking forward to the opportunity to do more, I would love to know more about other people and businesses and help out new people.”*



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#Think**ABILITY** is a month long social media campaign to celebrate the accomplishments of individuals with disabilities. The campaign is coordinated by Families Helping Families of Jefferson and held annually during the month of **March**. Learn more about it at <http://fhfjefferson.org/whats-going-on/special-events/thinkability>

**Changing Lives. Every Day.**