

# #ThinkABILITY

KEVIN SCALLAN

Meet Kevin Scallan, from Destrehan, Louisiana. At 15 years old, Kevin has accomplished quite a lot. He loves sports, is a huge Drew Brees/New Orleans Saints fan. He even turned his bedroom into the ultimate Saints Fan Cave with the help of family.

Kevin also loves basketball and soccer and participates in a number of Special Olympics sports. He is a class clown and loves to make people laugh. Kevin also loves American Idol and can name every single winner, which season they won and what year it was. He loves game shows and award shows and in fact told us he needs us to have an award ceremony at home for when he gets certificates for a job well done. (Previously we only had to post the news on Facebook and call all relatives!)

He is a true character and one with many friends. He is also our safety monitor making sure we all have our seatbelts on before we drive in the car and has an uncanny memory for dates and days of the week when things occur. He loves holidays too and as soon as we finish one holiday, he is on to the next one and knows exactly what is coming up next. As you walk with him in the mall, he will wish every person that walks by Happy St. Patrick's Day, Merry Christmas or Happy Hanukah.

Kevin has Down syndrome and Autism, a combination more frequent than people may realize, and he has anxiety. Despite that, Kevin began to succeed in leaps and bounds.



Kevin and Bella's date  
to the Destrehan  
High School  
Homecoming Dance.



He does chores every day without too much protest, folding clothes and putting them away and emptying the trash. Kevin's direct support workers have expanded his horizons even more. He started going to community football games and school basketball games overcoming his anxiety about crowds. That enabled him to attend his first Destrehan High Football game this fall as a Freshman. He called out the plays from the stands (correctly I might add) and even chastised a referee when he made a bad call by yelling, "YOU GOTTA BE KIDDING ME!" from his seat, getting everyone in his section riled up agreeing with the bad call.

Kevin's "My Ms. Alli" Waguespack, his direct support worker and our angel, even recently supported him on his first date, to the homecoming dance at Destrehan High School. It was overwhelming to see a lovely sweet young lady, Bella, come to our home and ask Kevin out to the dance. She was so very sweet. Knowing he is a Saints fan, she showed up with a poster asking "Who Dat? Gonna take me to Homecoming?... Yes or No" and Kevin checked YES! He was so excited. He bought her a corsage to match her dress, took her out to eat, took pictures with her, danced the night away and walked her to the door after their date.

That same "My Ms. Alli" who was there for him at the dance, who taught him board games, how to take turns and even that he cannot win all the time, also taught him what college is when she started college herself. Now Kevin says he wants to go to college. He has aspirations. He will go. We will figure it out.



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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.**