

# #ThinkABILITY

JAMIE DUPLÉCHINE

Jamie Duplechine, of Lafayette, LA, was injured in a car accident at the age of 15. This resulted in paralysis. Despite the setback, Jamie knew, early on, that there was more to life beyond her paralysis. She made it her mission to advocate for herself and others who were going through similar situations. She travels to Baton Rouge and Washington D.C. and anywhere in between to speak with her elected officials and others to share her message.

Jamie is a certified peer mentor, through the Christopher & Dana Reeve Foundation, board member of Brain Injury Association/United Spinal Association – Louisiana Chapter, and serves as Member-At-Large on the Statewide Independent Living Council of Louisiana. During the week, she also volunteers her time to tutor students at Bridge Ministry of Acadiana.



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In 2015, Jamie was crowned Ms. Wheelchair Louisiana. Most recently, she received the 2016 Patsy Barrett Award, at the Governor's Outstanding Leadership in Disability (GOLD) Awards in Baton Rouge and received the Outstanding Individual with a Disability Award for Lafayette Parish.

She earned her Associate's Degree in Computer Information Systems from Bossier Parish Community College and an Associate's Degree in Theology at In Christ International Bible College. Jamie is currently pursuing her Bachelor's Degree in Christian Ministry and is in this year's Partners in Policymaking Louisiana program. Outside of school and advocating, she enjoys reading, spending time with family and friends and just keeping busy.



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#ThinkABILITY 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.**