

# #ThinkABILITY

JAVEON HAWKINS

As an anonymous author once said, “With great confidence, you have won before you have started and sometimes things that challenge you most teach you best.”

Javeon Hawkins is a senior at Ponchatoula High School. He enjoys school activities and has made a lot of friends. Having a diagnosis of autism, Javeon has taken it all in stride. Being the oldest sibling of two brothers, he has shaped all of our lives with his will to be included in every aspect of the home, community, and school life.

Although many challenges have come along in his life, he has handled them with great tenacity and grace.

Javeon's community-based support gives him the opportunity to explore, get involved, and know his community as a whole and vice-versa. A dream for him,



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and his parents, Stephanie and Elvis, is for him to live and thrive in a community of inclusion. He will exit this school year continuing to volunteer in his community and exploring different employment opportunities. His parents feel like it's a great experience; allowing him to embark on new adventures and teaching him the skills to be as independent as possible.

At the end of last summer, Javeon became a first-time homeowner. He has a home that reflects his love of zebras and shrubbery. Doing horticulture is one of his strongest muses.

The journey could not have come this far without the continued support of family, friends, and resources in our community. Those resources include Northshore Families Helping Families, Soar with Autism, Florida Parish Human Services Authority, his caregiver, Roger Ritz, Tangipahoa Parish School System, and TARC.



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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.**