

#ThinkABILITY

TIA CAGE

My name is Tia Cage. At the age of 16, I was diagnosed with Osteosarcoma, a form of bone cancer. I underwent almost a year of chemotherapy and two major surgeries, which included having the right side of my pelvis removed.

I am now mostly wheelchair-bound with only some mobility in my right leg. I missed out on some milestones when I was 16, like the high school prom, and getting my driver's license and first car. Once I finished my chemotherapy treatments, I was determined to start the process of getting my driver's license so that I can gain my independence. I realized that it wasn't going to be as easy as finding and enrolling in just any driving school.

Not too long after that, I saw an email from Families Helping Families about a seminar on obtaining your driver's license with a disability. I attended the



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seminar and the process officially began. I found a vendor who fit my needs and soon had obtained my license.

Now, I drive myself to work, school, volunteer services, and even doctor appointments (something that my mom is still getting used to!). None of that would have been possible without the help of Families Helping Families.

I am now a college sophomore studying Sociology with a concentration in Health, Medicine, and Society at Xavier University of Louisiana.

Because of all the obstacles I overcame, my goal is to become a medical social worker helping the families of children with chronic diseases, but my dream is to create an organization aimed at the inclusion of the differently abled youth!



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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.