



THIEN

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Our son Thien has cerebral palsy (CP) and is paralyzed on one side of his body. We first met Ms. Thuy when she was working at Children's Hospital. My husband and I don't speak English that well so she was a great help with translating whenever we were there. She informed us of the resources available to those with disabilities which we were not aware of.

Thien was attending Benjamin Franklin High School. He began to struggle with academics when his health began to decline and he was missing too many days. The school provided him with a 504 plan but that still did not help. To better meet his needs, it was in our best interest for him to switch schools. He was still struggling in all his classes so that was when we decided to call Ms. Thuy. She informed us of our educational rights and told us what we needed to ask for. She attended a meeting with us along with the school's Special Education Coordinator to request a change in the plan – to do an IEP. Thien graduated with a High School diploma.

The support and information Ms. Thuy provided my family were very beneficial, especially during the transition years. She informed us about SSA benefits when he turned 18, legal issues, Louisiana Rehabilitation Services (LRS), and how they can help with transitioning to post-secondary education. LRS provided him with financial assistance and durable medical equipment and worked with his UNO Counselor to make sure he received the accommodations he needed to attend classes. LRS also helped him learn to drive.

Thien is now 22 and is attending the University of New Orleans (UNO) full-time. He is doing very well and will be graduating in the spring of 2023. He has always been a quiet and shy person but has come out of his shell a bit and become more independent. He enjoys going to classes and loves to spend time on campus. He hopes to find a job in game development. Thien received his driver's permit and is in the process of doing driving evaluations. Learning how to drive has made his life much easier. He now knows he can do more with his life. He would like to share his experience with those who have health issues as he does.

I would like to send out a big THANK YOU to Ms. Thuy and FHF of GNO for helping our family. Our son would not be where he is now if it wasn't for all the support and resources they provided us through the years.

John & Huong Nguyen