

# INCLUSION & EQUALITY FOR ALL

## SHERRY PICKETT

I am a mother and **parent advocate**. I have an adult son named Matthew. I help him with taking his vitals, giving medications and helping in daily care.

Matthew has the rare genetic diagnosis of DiGeorge Syndrome with a deletion of the 22nd chromosome. He also has Tetralogy of Fallot, a complex heart condition. Research shows 99% children with this diagnosis do not survive past one year old. During his lifetime he has had 4 open heart surgeries. He is blind in the left eye.

Matthew wants to become a chef! He enjoys Special Olympics and attending church.

Matthew is a self-advocate and speaks to Physical Therapy students at Somerset Community College.



“Without the Michelle P. Waiver, Matthew’s health, independence and quality of life would be at risk and he would not be involved in the community.”





# With Medicaid Waiver Services

Matthew has the supports he needs to have a career. Before COVID, Matthew worked at a diner where he was learning skills and getting closer to his dream to be a chef.



Matthew has the chance to share and teach others about his rare heart disease. He is now a part of the Physical Therapy team at Somerset College where he educates students.



Matthew is a part of his community where he is an athlete in Special Olympics. Competing helps Matthew stay healthy.



Being valued in the community is important to Matthew. Waiver services allows him to have the health support he needs to be safe and approach everyday with confidence.



As Matthew's mother and caregiver, waiver services give me a chance to provide a meaningful life for my son.