

## Joshua Guetersloh

Sixteen year old Joshua Guetersloh, the son of Lorrinda and Dale Guetersloh of Metropolis, represents the many children in southern Illinois who receive therapy and specialized equipment through the money donated to the Telethon of Stars Celebration Concert. You may recognize his face or name as this is a repeat performance for Joshua who was the Illinois Telethon star eleven years ago on the 49<sup>th</sup> Telethon of Stars. We know that once you've met Joshua, you won't forget him because he is an inspiration. His progress in developing the ability to walk and talk and his academic progress in school gives hope to the families with children who have disabilities.

Joshua was born with microcephaly, cerebral palsy, multiple eye conditions, a conductive hearing loss, type 1 diabetes and Korea. Korea is irregular, unpredictable body movements. Lorrinda Guetersloh, Joshua's mother, reports that when he was born they were not given hope that Joshua would live anything near a normal life. He started therapy through the Illinois Early Intervention program at 9 months of age. When he aged out of early intervention services at 3 years, he started receiving speech, physical and occupational therapy and special equipment partially funded by donations to TLC of Southern Illinois through the Telethon of Stars. It has been a long road for Joshua and his family. He has had thousands of therapy treatments during the past 16 years. At times in his life, Joshua has had over 9 therapy sessions weekly. Mrs. Guetersloh encourages people to look at Joshua now. Look at how far he has come. As a family, the Guetersloh's have learned to look at life differently and to find good in all things. Joshua has taught them to "never say never" and "never give up". They praise God for all things, good and bad, and give thanks to God for giving them this precious life. They cannot imagine life without Joshua and feel blessed to call him theirs. He is their precious miracle.

Presently, Joshua is a freshman at Massac County High School and thriving. He's looking forward to taking drivers education in January, 2017. He truly is an inspiration and proof of what can be accomplished through therapy, specialized equipment and the support of a loving family.

Joshua and his family are asking that people donate whatever they can to help Joshua and the many other children in Southern Illinois and the tristate area receive much-needed therapy and equipment so they can overcome disabilities and live happy and productive lives. They ask that you give to this great cause and remind people that donations stay in the state from which they come to provide for area children with disabilities.