



Congratulations Nicholas Donovan!

2022 Yes I Can! Award - Self Advocacy



When Nick was very young, he was diagnosed with a rare vision condition known as Coloboma. He began to receive special education services for students with severe visual impairments. Nick was unsure if the little vision he had was ever going to worsen. He was taught Orientation and Mobility skills including how to use a white cane, Braille, Assistive Technology and how to use Low Vision devices. One of the largest challenges Nick faced was building his self-confidence.

After years in the classroom for the visually impaired, Nick increased his skills needed to accommodate for his vision loss and was able to return to his home district. Nick's accomplishment occurred not only in his school but in all aspects of his life. He was able to attend camps and programs for students with visual impairments that allowed him to have experiences he may never have had. He was chosen to participate in a leadership training to become a camp counselor.

He never let his vision stop him from doing well in school and accomplishing his dream of going to a 4-year University. He participated in extracurricular events on the Belleville Track and Cross-Country teams and a part time job while maintaining high grades in high school. Nick says that the biggest reason why he has been able to overcome his challenges is because of the support of his family. They have always pushed him to be the best that he can be. They have never let him blame his visual impairment for why he couldn't accomplish something. His vision is one of the reasons why he is always striving to be a leader.

Despite the struggles Nick faced, he never let his vision get in the way of his success. He graduated from Belleville High School, with a 3.88 GPA. He is now attending Michigan State University.