



For Immediate Release
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Manitoba Student Honored with International Award

Arlington, Va., February [XX], 2024 – Jorja Carrothers of Portage la Prairie, Manitoba, Canada, received the 2024 Yes I Can Award for Self-Advocacy from the Council for Exceptional Children (CEC). Jorja will be honored this March along with other Yes I Can recipients at the CEC Convention and Expo in San Antonio, Texas.

The Yes I Can Awards celebrate and honor the achievements of children and youth with exceptionalities while increasing public awareness of the abilities and aspirations of students with disabilities.

Jorja lives with multiple complex health issues that affect every aspect of her daily life. While navigating life with these complex health issues, she focuses on the needs of others in her community and how she can contribute to improving the lives and experiences of others. Jorja started a successful food collection campaign to improve food security in her area. In tandem with this, she spearheaded a comprehensive accessibility study for her school, which she shared with the principal and superintendent to create a more accessible school environment for all.

When her school celebrated Diversity Week, Jorja and her grandmother sewed a Disability Pride Flag to continue her advocacy for disability awareness, inclusion, and social justice. She has worked hard to overcome challenges to serve as a champion for others. Jorja is passionate about advocating for youth mental health, especially for those who grow up in hospital settings.

Jorja's nominator says that she often focuses on the needs of others and is confident in Jorja's ability to advocate and work toward creating change in the world.

The Council for Exceptional Children (CEC) is the largest international professional organization dedicated to high-quality education that is inclusive and equitable for individuals with disabilities. Learn more about CEC at <https://exceptionalchildren.org/>.