

Tennessee Student Honored with International Award

Arlington, Va., February [XX], 2026 – Brett Wyatt of Hermitage, Tennessee, received the 2026 Yes I Can Award for Arts from the Council for Exceptional Children (CEC). Brett will be honored this March along with other Yes I Can recipients at the CEC Convention and Expo in Salt Lake City, Utah.

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.

Brett was diagnosed with leukemia in 2021 after experiencing a brain bleed. Both conditions have led to vision loss, short-term memory loss, and mobility challenges. Throughout his time in the hospital, music and visual arts have become a large part of his recovery, as well as a way for him to encourage those with visual impairments.

Brett's journey was documented through a Facebook page, with one of his singing videos receiving 11 million views. A radio personality from Japan reached out to Brett's parents to ask if she could use videos of him that had been posted online to help promote music therapy in Japan.

"His joy for music is palpable and heartwarming and it has been an honor to share songs with him," shares his music therapist, Celeste Douglas. "Brett definitely changed the way that I approach caring for patients with visual impairments. Because Brett couldn't see, we had to get creative. I have now used this same method with other patients with visual impairments."

When Brett would return to the hospital for transplant follow-up visits, he would work on projects with St. Jude's art studio coordinator, Sarah Camp. His art has utilized mediums such as paint, laser engraving, and voiceover narration.

"I can't wait to see what Brett comes up with in the future. His artwork is a great example of how visual impairment does not prohibit a person from creating visual art, and Brett is a strong advocate for accessibility and representation in the visual arts," Camp said.

"Music was a big part of my recovery and boosting my spirits while I spent almost a year in the hospital," shares Wyatt. "Cancer took away a lot of things, but it did not take away who I am. I am relentlessly me."

Thank you to Einstein Advocates for sponsoring the Yes I Can Awards.



For Immediate Release

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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/>.

