



# I am Unstoppable.

We are her advocate.



Developmental  
Disability **Advocates**

## Transition Series Part 1: Life After High School | College

Hailey Schmidt is a highly self-motivated 18-year-old Jefferson College student who navigates life's challenges with unwavering determination. As a young child, Hailey was involved in a serious car accident which caused a spinal cord injury resulting in her becoming quadriplegic. This significant moment in Hailey's life never stopped her from pursuing her passions and interests. In many ways, it strengthened her ability to adapt to changing circumstances and fearlessly learn new ways to achieve her goals.

Her incredible network of family, friends, caregivers and resources like Developmental Disability Advocates have been there for Hailey throughout each new phase in her life. From childhood through high school and now college, Hailey's family has provided numerous resources to help her shine; including moving the family into a fully-accessible home designed with her specific needs in mind. Developmental Disability Advocates applied for a Partnership for Hope Waiver for Hailey and requested funding for transportation and specialized medical equipment. By far, the most important resource—and one of the most important people in Hailey's life—is her nurse Judy, who joins Hailey on campus every day to assist her with the day's activities. More than an invaluable caretaker, Judy is a trusted confidant and dear friend to Hailey.

While attending Hillsboro High School, Hailey excelled with academics thanks to her drive and dedication to her studies. She was in the National Honor Society and enjoyed classes like anatomy and math where she could apply her natural skill for memorization and retention for detailed information. Hailey also enjoyed spending time watching her brothers play basketball and her friends cheer on the football team. Her school district provided resources like assistive technology so Hailey could complete her schoolwork electronically, physical therapy on campus and other special accommodations to support Hailey while in school.

For Hailey, graduating from high school and preparing for college life at Jefferson College was an incredibly exciting transition. She always knew she wanted to go to college to work toward a future career as an actuary, where she could apply her love for numbers and statistics at a well-paying job. In addition to being an dedicated college student, Hailey runs her own small business called "Hailey's Strings n' Things" where she creates macramé art including jewelry and home furnishings with the help of her mom, Stacey. She picked-up the art and science of macramé by watching YouTube videos and learned a lot about running her small business through trial and error. She currently sells her creations on Facebook, at craft fairs and her Grandpa's antique store and is excited to continue her small business as she finalizes her college degree.

Hailey is not afraid to overcome challenges, learn new things and take on each new opportunity and phase of life with unstoppable determination!



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