

Stephen

Being diagnosed at such an early age, my Tic's have been somewhat as a normalcy to my childhood. As I moved on to middle school is when I noticed that everyone around me did not have the same movements that I did. That is when I started to try and suppress my Tic's so that I would fit in, but to no avail. Middle schoolers can be very cruel. Although my Teachers and Administration worked with me during that time, the bullying and name calling began. The most difficult thing for a child is to feel "different" in a very cruel world. All I was looking for was acceptance by my peers. Eventually, I had to transfer schools because the abuse was just overwhelming. I appreciate my parents being there and always supporting me as just their "child". No different from any other middle-schooler. I was always taught to fight for what I believed in and never let anyone take away my "joy". Their love, guidance, respect and appreciation for who I was as a person was my shining star. That empowering feeling is what I took with me to High School.

After therapy and medicine, I have been able to control my Tic's during my teenage years confidently. Being a competitive athlete, I am always surrounded by teammates and or coaches. I only wanted to be judged by my ability to compete. I was not looking for sympathy or a pass because I moved a little differently than the other students.

Moving on to Azusa Pacific University, I plan to be successful in Criminology and move on to the the Federal Bureau of Investigation. I am able to achieve my goals in life by never giving up and using my diagnosis as an excuse. I use it as a platform to prove to myself and others that I am worthy.