

# A mom remembers

## A note from Albert's mother

*Albert's mom Annie Mills Waters reflects here on her son Albert. Annie's husband, Bill Emerick Waters, is the great-grandson of Leisz Brother Joseph and eldest of 11 children born to his Billy Waters (b. 1931) and wife Cathie. Billy is the eldest grandchild of Leisz Brother Joseph, and the patriarch of our entire extended Leisz family—that is, he is the eldest living male descended from the six Leisz Brothers and their sister Mary Leisz Minnichsoffer.*

**APRIL 18, 2019—Albert was born Nov. 20, 1998, the youngest of 7 siblings all in Cuyahoga County, Ohio custody.** He was fortunate to have a loving foster family for a year prior to coming into our home in June 2000, but **we were still his 4th placement.**

**Albert obviously had a rough start** and many physical challenges as well related to his chromosomal abnormality, trisomy 21, more commonly known as Down Syndrome. He had major abdominal surgery in March of 2000 to repair an intestinal blockage and was exclusively tube fed. **He was such a beautifully, handsome little man though and we fell in love with him immediately and took such pride in all his milestones.**

**Albert loved music and that was the modality we used** to help him learn language, music and sign, for many years. His adoption was finalized in March 2001.

**Albert was very proud of graduating high school in May 2019. He loved working** and was very proud of his job at The Learning Farm in Amherst, Ohio. He also loved working in the community, especially cleaning at restaurants prior to opening or stocking at stores.

**God always put the right people and opportunities in Albert's life.** His school bought farm property the year Albert started in 2016 and he was part of the first group of students at Willow Farms. He loved gardening and taking care of the horses and working at the various job sites.

**My daughter Grace's reflection on Albert describes the richness he brought into all our lives.**