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# IN A WORLD OF A DISABILITY

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Above is Wayne Doughty Jr., age 24 who struggles with a disability of his own.

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Having a disability doesn't make you different.

"I wish I could be normal instead of having a disability. Everyone else gets picked first and I am always the last person to get picked. It makes me feel like I am not appreciated," stated Wayne Doughty Jr. when explaining how he felt compared to others around him.

Wayne Jr. has a learning disability known as MHIDD, Mental Health Intellectual Development Disability. This disability affects his learning and understanding of telling time, dealing with money, numbers, math equations, and so on. MHIDD effects one percent of the population; however 84% of those suffer mildly from MHIDD.



On the left is Wayne Doughty, the father to Wayne Jr. on the right.

Before Wayne Jr. attended Central York School District in Pennsylvania, he attended Copiague School District in New York until the 6th grade. Wayne Jr.'s mother, Debbie Doughty, explained, "I told the Elementary school in New York that I knew something was wrong with Wayne. After they diagnosed him with MHIDD, the school did not tell me anything. It wasn't until Wayne attended the 7th grade at Central when we did an IEP, his teachers were stating MR. That's how I found out he had a disability."

Wayne Jr.'s father, Wayne Doughty, went on to explain what it was like raising a child with a disability. "It is tough, you have to have a lot of patience. It takes more patience to sit down and help the child understand than it would for any other child."

At Central, Wayne was placed in a special education support classroom until graduation. In this classroom, Wayne Jr. was taught independent living skills, job skills and training, self help skills, and social skills. Each skill was broken down to help teach Wayne Jr.. He learned about:

working with money management, doing chores, building a resume, etc.. Other learning styles were taught through textbooks, notes, and quizzes for those students who could learn in that form.

Wayne Jr. was also enrolled in Dr. Lisa Turner's 21st Century Class at Central. This class teaches the students ways with technology to communicate to the world. Dr. Lisa Turner explained what it was like to have Wayne Jr. in her class: "I had to break down my lessons for how Wayne learned best. I had to change lessons of what Wayne could understand and do, he struggled and got frustrated with a lot of the lessons. I called his parents often to inform and meet with them about Wayne's struggles."

After high school, Wayne Jr. was assigned a state worker who works with him. Steve Lowthal began working with Wayne Jr. at the age of 18. Steve's job is to help figure out what providers meet the needed services and to set them up for his clients. As well, Steve attends his clients IEP's, and help get funding for those clients.

Steve went on to explain what it is like for himself to help prepare his clients for the real world. “Another big part for getting a person ready for the real world is for the family to be communicative, understanding, and caring about the process, no matter how tedious it may feel, because no matter the caregivers personal hang ups, in the end of the day it’s about the person that needs assistance.”

Wayne Jr. enjoys going to the firehouse, as he is volunteer firefighter. To escape his disability, and to seem normal, Wayne Jr spends the majority of his time there. When asked about comparing therapy to the firehouse, Wayne Jr. stated, “The firehouse is something I enjoy, I can give back to the community. Therapy is something that is forced, which I don’t like.”

Every year, Wayne Jr. and his dad, Wayne Doughty, goes to fire shows as bonding time. Wayne Doughty explained the connection between his son and fire trucks: “Anything that has to do with fire trucks, or anything related to a firefighter, he loves to learn about. Wayne knows a lot about the fire trucks more than anything else he knows. He learns about them faster than anything else because is what interests him.”

Over the past 24 years, Wayne Jr. has overcome many obstacles in life. This resulted in changing jobs, finding the right people to be loved by, and most importantly to find something he is passionate about. MHIDD will never go away. But with the support of his family and state worker, anything could be concord.



**Wayne Doughty Jr.** a volunteer fire fighter for Hershey Fire Department, doing the 9/11 stair climb for fallen victims.