

My name is Eric Robinette and I have been a participant at One Step Beyond for 9 years. I am writing to wish you all the merriest holiday season and to tell you why I am always so joyful. My mom learned about One Step Beyond when I was just a kid. She knew it was the right place for me from the very beginning. I like to go to math, english, and science classes. I also like art and karaoke, dance, yoga, and nutritious gardening classes. My very favorite class is healthy life habits!

If you ask me, the best part about One Step Beyond is getting to see all my friends and being busy with all kinds of activities every day. I really love going to hockey practice with my friends because I get to shoot and score! One of my favorite people in the whole world is Jared Woosley because he teaches us all to play hockey. Even people who think they can't play find out that if they go to practice, they can learn to be good hockey players.

My favorite day ever at One Step Beyond was the day our dance team performed "24 Karat Magic" by Bruno Mars at Theater Works in Peoria, AZ. We wore our blue and white dance team jerseys with blue sparkly accessories and danced on a big stage. It was all very exciting and we had a lot

of fun together. One Step Beyond has provided many opportunities at public-inclusive events for us to perform dance and music including the ASU & GCU men's basketball half time show, Special Olympic opening ceremonies, and annual fundraising events, just to name a few. We love when the crowd cheers for us!



We are all one big family here. We take care of one another and help one another. When I was younger, I was unable to talk at all, but now I like to talk to everyone! I love to share with others what a great place this is and encourage them to participate or come work there. We learn to be independent by doing things together until it doesn't make us anxious anymore. Because of One Step Beyond, I think I can do anything.

I am so grateful for everything that the staff and my friends have helped me accomplish here. And I am grateful to all of you who help support our programs. It is my hope that everyone can be happy and joyful just like me.

Thank you for your support!!

Eric Robinette