

My name is Elizabeth Anne Bronold. I'm 21 years old. I was born at the Medical Center in Dothan AL. I was diagnosed with Down syndrome. I was also deaf and had no muscle tone. When I was 5 months old this nice lady prayed for me to hear. God opened my ears so I can hear. When I went to Vaughn Blumburg Center 5 days later the doctor tested me. After the test the doctor came out and told mom that I can hear really good but the doctor said that I never responded to my name. My mom told the doctor that I had been deaf. He said "That explains it." This is one of my favorite stories. This is another story that I love too. My Mom was praying and the Lord told her to read Isaiah 45:9-11. It was about me.

When I went to Vaughn Blumburg Center my teachers thought that I could not walk, sit up, or crawl because I had no muscle tone. But when I was 18 months old, I started to walk. I walked stiffed-legged. I walked this way until I was 5 years old. Somehow I began to walk and run with other people. When I was 8 years old I ran track with Special Olympics and I won 1st and 2nd place ribbons. When I was 9 years old I went to the state Special Olympic Games at Fort Rucker and I won a gold medal for the 50 meter dash and another gold medal for the standing broad jump. I won gold medals for 3 more years in track and field. I started swimming with the Special Olympic swim team when I was 13 years old. I've competed with the Dothan Dolphin swim team for 8 years. We go to local and state games in Alabama and Auburn in the month of May.

I went to Dothan High during my 9th grade year. When I was in the 10th grade I was in Dothan High Band. It was a pleasure that my teacher Mrs. King asked me if I wanted to be in the Key Club and I said "Yes, ma'am." I worked during my 12th grade year to graduate. I worked for Leisure Services. Leisure Services was the best job I ever had. I go bowling with Leisure Services on Tuesdays.

I've been in the Friends Choir for 8 years. We go singing at churches and I hope one day we're going to sing for the President, George Bush. We also do fun night in which we go eat and play games with our friends. I'm on the volleyball team. We go to Montevallo for the state game. Every year we go to camp ASSCA in the fall and Camp Camporee is in the spring. I'm also on the tennis team. We were on TV (for the tennis team.) I was chosen as Athlete of the Year in the state of Alabama. I lit the torch in Auburn stadium for the state games in 2001 I went to Talladega to the Nascar race to meet Robby Gordon. I went to the wrestling match in Ozark. It's a fund raiser for Special Olympics. Now I'm on the State Board for Special Olympics. I'm learning how to make decisions for the athletes.