

# FAMILY FOCUS: Curtis and Anita Jenkins

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**Hear from Anita, Curtis's mom.**

**Curtis didn't understand why he couldn't go to his regular programs. He thought not being able to go to them was his fault... as if he did something wrong.**

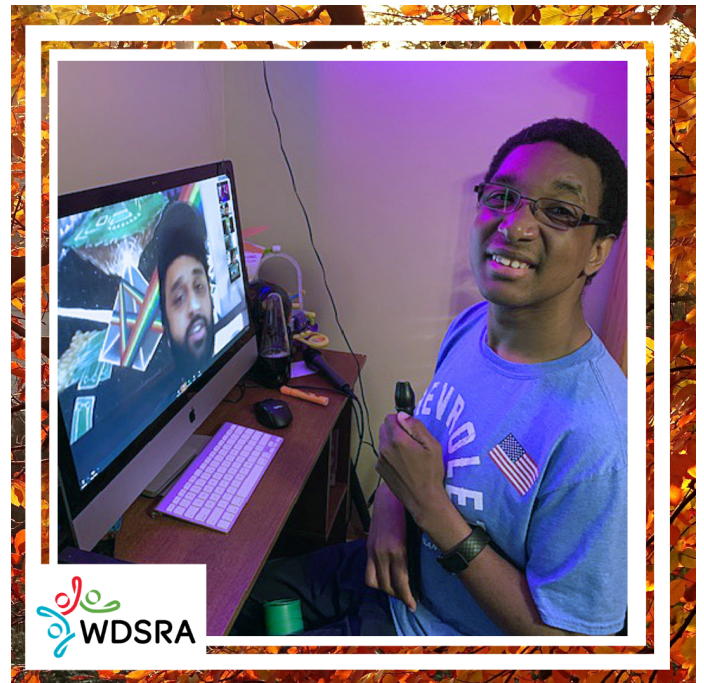
When my husband and I tried to explain to Curtis how COVID-19 was going to impact his life, all he heard was 'no programs'. He turned away from us with tears in his eyes. My heart sank. I didn't know what I was going to do.

It was so hard for him because he didn't understand and he missed the structure in his life. He continually asked about his regular programs. He thought not being able to go to them was his fault... as if he did something wrong. Curtis's anxiety got so high he was having trouble sleeping.

Virtual programs were a godsend. Though he kept asking for his in-person programs, virtual programs gave him the chance to see other participants and staff again. He was happier and his anxiety leveled off. He started to sleep better again too.

I want Curtis to be safe and happy. I want him to try new things and be engaged rather than watching television.

It's important for him to get a sense of independence with his peers and see others having fun and smiling. It's also important



for him to have opportunities to expand his learning and know the good feelings that come from achievement. Virtual programs give him the chance to do just that. He's been enjoying karaoke, bingo, and tae kwon do virtually.

Our world revolves around Curtis. We are together 24/7. During this pandemic though, there are times that can be exhausting. Sometimes he and I both need a break. With virtual programs we get that break.

**Anita Jenkins, Curtis's mom**