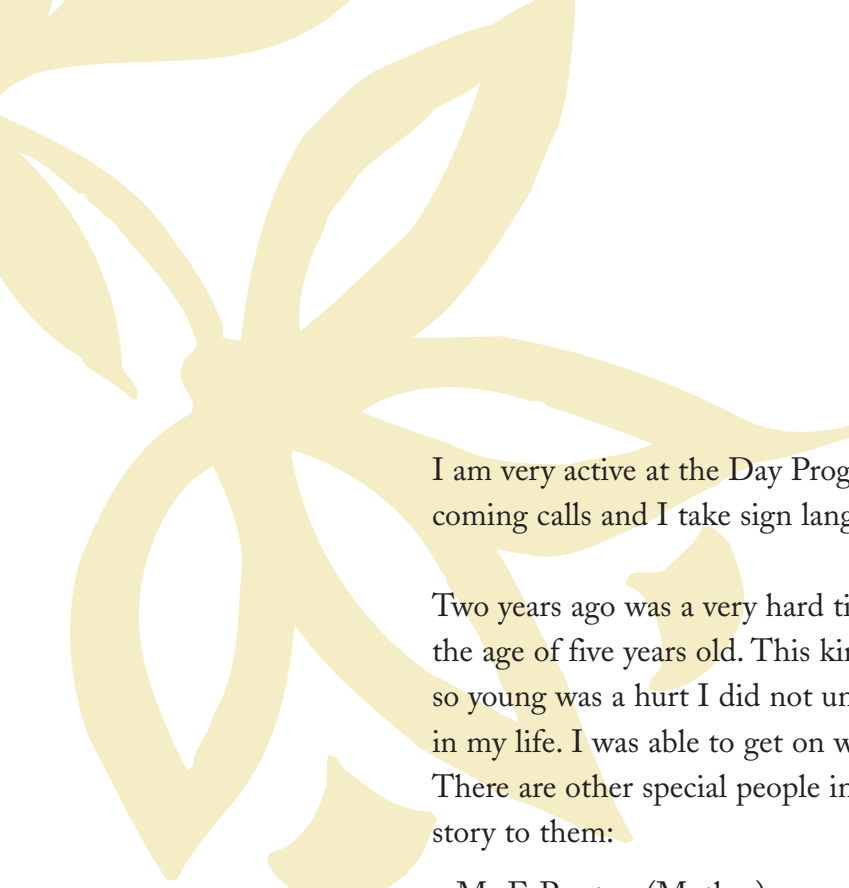


# The Life and Times of William O. Jackson

**I** WOULD LIKE TO BEGIN THIS SHORT STORY ABOUT ME BY saying that I love life and my life is very fulfilling.

I was born in Washington DC at Children's Hospital. I remained at Children's Hospital until the age of five years. During that time I was diagnosed with Spinal Bifida. At the age of five years old I moved in with my foster parents, I stayed with my foster family until the age of twenty-one. These were good times, times of fun, love and laughter. At age twenty-one I moved from my parent's home to an ICF.MR (Intermediate Care Facility for Individuals with Developmental Disabilities) group home. It was very difficult for me to live there because no one that lived there could talk to me or play with me. Later, I moved to another group home that changed my life for the better. I met people that really cared about me.

We are taught to be independent and we demand that our rights be respected. We go on vacations, club outings, to concerts, libraries and universities. I attended the University of the District of Columbia for computer training. I enjoy using the computer because it gives me the means to communicate in this age of technology. I also enjoy my activities with my church; I am a member of the choir and I attend church every week. I try very hard to participate in each and every church activity but sometimes it is hard during football season because I am a die-hard Redskin fan. My room is personally designed in Redskins gear and I attend at least one Redskin game a year. My one wish in life is to meet and date a nice young lady that enjoys some of the same things that I enjoy in life. I am trying very hard to learn how to communicate my feelings and get results.



I am very active at the Day Program I attend, I am also in the choir, I answer all incoming calls and I take sign language classes.

Two years ago was a very hard time in my life, my lil brother (Donta) died at the age of five years old. This kind of pain was very new to me, to lose someone so young was a hurt I did not understand but I am grateful to have wonderful people in my life. I was able to get on with my life with wonderful memories of his smile. There are other special people in my life and I would like to dedicate this short story to them:

- Ms F. Preston (Mother)
- Mr. K. Preston (Father)
- Brian (Brother)
- Daisy (Sister)
- Ms. Mary Ann Carmody (Friend and Mentor)
- Pastor Tyrone Queen

One day I hope to write my life story and let the world know how grateful I am for such a wonderful life. Remember “God is Great and here for me”!

*William O. Jackson*