

Hello. My name is Jamaica Miller. I love to give hugs, and I also love to feel people's hair. I love being able to hear talking books and Bookshare. I have my Helper, Jennifer, with me.

I was born totally blind. I was born with a thing called anophthalmia. My eyes did not form, so I have plastic eyes.

I started as an infant at a center, and then I went to regular preschool, and then I ended up going to public school for Kindergarten, two years of first grade, and a second grade year. And then I ended up going to several blind schools, and then ended up being home schooled.

I am not sure about when I found out about my blindness, but I've always seemed to really enjoy people a lot. I actually wanted to be a bus driver for my job. I have always loved riding buses. But it did not come because I can't drive.

But I have started a nonprofit that is called Wheels of Hope, and it is for people that need transportation that are elderly and have visual impairments and other disabilities, where I take them to the doctors or to shopping or to church or whatever needs to happen. That's what my job is, is to help get the scheduling done and everything for that. That's my dream, and I'm hoping it'll come to several more states. But right now, we're still working in Georgia.

But I started out in 2004 because I had a friend of mine that asked me to join the chapter. And from 2004 and to right now, I have been working on the fundraising team for Athens, and I've been working on the membership for Athens. As a goal of mine, I want to be able to help with community hosting maybe.

I love being a part of the American Council of the Blind and the Georgia Council of the Blind. I am the vice president of the Athens chapter. I am a board member of the Georgia Council of the Blind. I also am a part of ACB Families and Library Users of America.

I have been to state for many years. I was also on the scholarship committee for that, and I'm a member of the convention committee. Right now, I'm the co-chair of the convention committee for Georgia. So I'm working hard at getting all of that put together, and I am the door prize lady. I give out all the door prizes for Georgia.

When I first when to my first convention, I think I was excited, but at the same time, nervous. Because I had just been dealing with a head injury. And I think my first convention that I can remember is going up to Helen, Georgia in the mountains. Oh, I [inaudible] going out. That's my first experience that I remember.

What service means to me is being door prize lady at the state conventions, helping edit the letter for the convention. I love getting to know different people. Everybody seems to really love me a lot with what I do for service.

Before the calls actually started, I was already out and about, because I had started my Wheels of Hope program in 2018. And I was going out and driving the people where they needed to go. But after everything was shutting down, I wasn't able to do everything. And my mom and dad ended up having to be with me a lot because the helpers couldn't come in and work with me at all during the pandemic.

So you know, I was more limited to when the calls started, but I waited a little while because I needed to learn how to use the program. It was going to take a little bit. But I've learned how to use the program that I like.

I found out about the calls. I really enjoy the coffee socials. And I really appreciated Monica and Sheila and Tyson and Cindy's help with learning how to do everything that I needed to learn how to do for the calls. Some of the other calls that I enjoy are the game night that happens every Friday night and the friendship circle and the unmute presents call. My world has changed because I actually really love being on the calls, and I learned some things that I wouldn't have learned if I'm not on the calls.

And the second thing is that my life is coming back to where I used to be able to go out and do a lot of my other things that I used to do. But I'm still loving the community when I can be around. I've really made a whole bunch of new friends. In fact, I got to see a friend of mine last night. I got to actually go have dinner with Eugene, so I was real happy to get to do that. And I'm hoping to meet a lot of you at national. This will be my first national conference next year.

Well, I'm looking forward to, hopefully, being able to go to the Vispero session, Amazon session, Google session, Facebook -- if they have a session -- and also, hopefully, getting to go to the family breakfast hopefully, and also getting to hear about the awards. And I enjoy the voting part of ACB when we vote on the different things we have to vote on. In Jacksonville, I want to meet Cindy Hollis, Anthony, Gabriel, and Belinda. Those are the people that I really want to meet.

To the people who nominated me for Member of the Mike, I want to thank you for nominating me. In five years, I would like to be able to have the Wheels of Hope non-profit be able to be in several different states by then, and I also would like to be able to get my technology skills a little bit better is my personal goal. When I meet people, I usually talk about my state convention first and then the American Council of the Blind. And I just tell them how wonderful everybody is when I get to meet them.

One thing I wish that more people knew, how to safely guide people. When they have my head injury, and people are not able to use a cane any more, I really would like to make sure that people in the world learn how to do safe sighted guide.

What I wish the American Council of the Blind would work on is trying to get more members into the council of the blind. I feel like there needs to be some work on our local chapters.

What I want to leave everyone today with is that I love this last line of this beautiful song, and it says "I hold my people in my heart." That is my inspirational quote. Thank you so much.