

KEEP IT PUSHING



October Awareness Spotlight

Brittany Majico

Happy Bootober! While many know this month for celebrating Halloween, the world has designated it as a celebration of Blindness and Visually Impaired Awareness. This awareness is characterized by bringing heightened focus to blindness and visually impairments as well as understanding the reality of living without sight. It also gives me a special opportunity to celebrate and interview my cousin Brittany Majico! Brittany, who is blind, was kind enough to allow me the unique experience of being able to share from a source with firsthand knowledge. My cousin has bi lateral optic nerve limitations, which caused her to have different levels of eye functionality since birth. This lead me to begin my questions by asking about some of the obstacles she has faced for the past 34 years. The first thing she spoke about was accessibility especially in school. As a graduate of both Chaffey College and Cal State LA. and with degrees in liberal arts and education; she's experienced accessibility limitations even at well-established organizations. Another issue, as she characterized it, is with ignorant people. These are people who are not very tolerant and are uncomfortable with what they don't understand. Even those people who think they are trying to be supportive don't realize how impactful what they say can be. For example, people have said " if I were in your place, I would delete myself" which is not really all that...

positive; contrary to their intentions this isn't reinforcement. Employment options and job opportunities are also challenging areas. I believe the unemployment rate is near 70%, which she and I agree is totally unacceptable. With that being said, Brittney has gone before Washington policy makers, made speeches, and is actively working on legislation and policy to present for change. That will soon be available on a non-profit website, Blind Unite. This site will feature opportunities for vocational skills training, independent living information, and all types of measures to improve and empower people all over the disabled spectrum; specifically, the blind and visually impaired. Of course, when the site gets up and running, we will spotlight and share We will also keep you updated as she and her team of participants are working on legislation in safety restrictions when it comes to mobility scooters. A push that was inspired by the tragic loss of one of Brittney's friend at the abilities expo, of all places! I would like to thank her for giving me not only consent but direct insight on a lifestyle I could only imagine. I wanted to highlight, not only how great I personally feel my cousin is; but give an example of how a person who is considered disabled, in particularly blind, can still be so important and influential. If she makes no excuses neither should anyone else, so until the next time, this is Gilbert J. and Brittney reminding you that no matter what obstacles are in your path, always keep it pushing!