

Success Story: Offering Support to Families In Need



Since 1990, SRVS has helped more than 1,000 disabled individuals through the Family Support Program. It is the only agency in Shelby and Fayette counties to receive funding for the program through a grant from the Tennessee Division of Mental Retardation Services (DMRS).

An example of an individual who benefits from the Family Support program is Rachel. She joined the program when she was three years old. Rachel's parents were determined to see her maximize her full potential to further her life. At the time, her family was unable to find an inclusive environment for her education. She also needed occupational therapy which was not covered by her parent's insurance. The Family Support Program helped Rachel's family by providing funds for therapy services and a private pre-school where she was included in a regular classroom.

Rachel is now seven years old and attends school in a regular first grade classroom at a public elementary school. "There is no way Rachel would be where she is today without her occupational therapy and the early intervention by SRVS' Family Support program," says Rachel's mom. "It's given us piece of mind and allowed us to do things for her that we would not ordinarily be able to do."

"I love to sit at my desk and work my ABCs," says Rachel, showing off her study area. "But my favorite thing to do is read." She enjoys school, is confident in herself, and even challenges her classmates to achieve their full potential in life. Pictured above are Rachel and her parents enjoying the specialized educational supplies and equipment like her computer, desk and chair and reading glasses, which were purchased through the program.