

Season 6 opens!! We mean it when we say "FRIEND STRONG FAMILY FOREVER"!



CURRENT STATS:
9-YEARS-OLD
3RD GRADER
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

BE A FRIEND (AGAIN) TO AYDEN!



"THINGS ARE VERY TROUBLING FOR ME..."

Season 6 of the Be A Friend Project opens with a 2-year "booster shot" of support for 2018 Friend Mail Recipient "AYDEN" to show him our Ambassadors mean it when we say "Friend Strong Family Forever."

In 2018, 6-Year-Old Ayden from Chicago endured months of physical, social and verbal bullying in Kindergarten while battling a hidden heart defect.

FROM 2018: One of the boys that targeted him told him "they were working together" to attack him. One classmate shrugged off his behavior by saying, 'I was angry.' The boys repeatedly slammed Ayden's face into the concrete during recess. Ayden was pushed off the slide, and if he got to the bottom, they punched and kicked him. The bullies bit Ayden. They pulled down his pants and underwear in Music Class to embarrass him..."

Be A Friend Ambassadors responded then with 1,373 letters of support to let Ayden know he was not alone! Today, Ayden just passed his two-year "heart-a-versary" of life-saving surgery, but COVID19 keeps him particularly isolated at home from friends and school; he needs support!

Ayden posted a video in July this year asking for "pen pals" and saying, "Hi Everybody, I hope you are staying safe. Things are very troubling for me. I miss my friends at school." His plea prompted us to send him an Official Ambassador Certificate in honor of his sending heartfelt letters & videos of support to Friend Mail Recipients that came after him since 2018.

Ayden's mom tells us:

"He just moved his old Friend Mail Bin next to his bed, and he's been re-reading some of his favorites. The letters are very therapeutic for him on his bad days. Last night, he asked to start reading at least 3 a night all over again. I wish everyone that wrote him a letter could see how much these letters mean to him. I find him smiling and giggling at times and I just soak it in."

This 2018 Friend Mail Recipient has been through a lot in his 9 years, but has given back even more. One of our Ambassadors summed it up perfectly:

"You may not know it, but you make everyone's life better than it already is... You actually inspired me to be kinder to others."

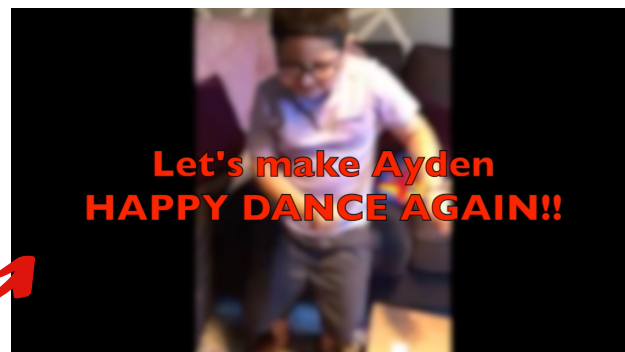
**AMBASSADORS, LET'S SHOW AYDEN - AND ALL OUR RECIPIENTS - THAT THEY ARE
FRIEND STRONG FAMILY FOREVER!**

YOUR LETTER IS A GIFT!

**Remind Ayden that he is not alone and tell him to stay strong and safe
and encourage him to do great in remote learning!**

FYI: The Be A Friend Project has selected Ayden to open Season 6 in a "soft start" which will be followed by a new website launch and Recipient to be announced on October 1st to kick-off National Anti-Bullying Month.

Check out Brielle's first Youtube of Season 6 re-introducing Ayden at https://youtu.be/V2eJ6_sTGmc



**LETTERS FOR AYDEN ARE DUE IN OUR NY
OFFICE BY OCTOBER 15TH, 2020**

Send to: 449 Lane Gate Road, Cold Spring, NY 10516

OR, jennifer@beafriendproject.org

Visit www.beafriendproject.org for video!

