Thank you for coming to my meeting today. I am Bridget Brown. Please introduce yourselves.
I would like to thank all the great people who helped me be successful. I am so grateful for all of your support.
I want you to know that I appreciate everyone who helped me succeed and everything you did to make a difference in my life.

Thanks!
Bridget

My mission statement
I will continue on my journey towards my dreams. I will be kind and helpful. I will try to continue my education in school and work hard to reach my goals. I will learn job skills as I become more independent.
THINGS I AM PROUD OF THIS YEAR ...

- I was on the speech team
- I was in another play
- I had some great opportunities to do public speaking
- Project Choices conference – Keynote for 800 people
- ICE ARC – Keynote
- I will be presenting at the National Down Syndrome Congress convention this summer (keynote and breakout sessions)
- I was in Choir and voice lesions
- In the summer I worked at my camp and also at a day care center with small
- I worked hard in school and got good grades
- I have many friends
- I am still involved in my church group and theater group
DREAMS
- Continue to be a public speaker and have my own consulting organization
- Be an advocate for people with disabilities – and start the “Butterflies for Change” group
- Make a difference in the world
- Continue to work with babies and little children
- Have lots of good friends
- Go to TCD and learn about child development and child care
- Be a life long learner
- Go to Elmhurst College for 4 years in the ELSA program or COD
- Continue to learn, write in my journals and maybe publish my work someday.
- Be a good role model and a good person
- 

NIGHTMARE
- Be alone & Sad
- People make fun of me because I have down syndrome
- Sit at lunch by myself
- No job
- No friends
  - No dreams and no hope
  - reams
  - No gifts
  - Lonely & ignored
  - No opportunities
- 

GIFTS AND TALENTS
- Loveable & loving & Joyful
- Help people when they are sad
- Bright & beautiful
- A Strong Self Advocate – determined Smart
- Good, clear voice & a Good public speaker
- Lots of opportunities and support
- Friendly and a good friend
- A family who cares about me
- Good with babies and small children
- Good social skills & funny
- Strong faith
- Lots of energy
- Good reader and good in math
- Lots of support from great people!
**PLANS FOR NEXT YEAR**

- Go to TCD in the childcare/child development program
- Take extra classes at Hinsdale South – Math, Sign Language, Word processing
- Take a class at College Of DuPage
- Part time job – maybe at my dad’s office, Jewel, child care center
- Continue to be involved with Special Olympics at the High School

- Work with the We Grow Dreams group – sales, customer service, and public speaking on behalf of the group around the area to increase support for the group
- Work again this summer at the child care center and get different jobs at Norman B. Barr Camp along with my work in the candy store.
- Save my money so I can go to Elmhurst College

**WHAT I NEED TO SUCCEED**

- Opportunities & Support
- An advocate & my family
- The determination to speak for myself
- Assistance when needed
- A chance to try things – no one clipping my wings
- Not to be judged because I have Down Syndrome
- A full life with lots of different things I can do
- Transportation

**In Denmark the word for Education means SHOW THE WONDER and I think that is a good description of my own education! I have had a wonderful time and I am sad to move on. Hopefully the rest of my life will be as fun and as exciting as these four years!**

My family has been there for me since I was born and they are my angels. I had the best teachers in the world and that is why I have such a great life.

THANK YOU!! Bridget

**LOVE**

**BRIDGET**

**PLANS FOR MY 6th YEAR**

- Go to COD
- Work
- Save money for College
- Continue being involved in all my activities
- Get involved in more community activities

**PLANS AFTER TRANSITION**

My dream is to go to ELMHURST COLLEGE for 4 years
Questions

- **THE HISTORY** - Where have you been on your journey?
  - Things I am proud of!

- **DREAMS** - Pretend you have a magic wand - what would you hope for and dream for yourself (your child)?

- **NIGHTMARE** - what are the things that you worry about and are afraid might happen? Things you want to avoid.

- **GIFTS AND STRENGTHS?** What are your talents, things you like to do, things you are good at?

- **SUCCESS STRATEGIES** - The individual is successful when.....?
  (Example: Tom is successful when he has tasks broken down for him so he can accomplish one thing at a time.)

- **FUTURE SEARCH.** Step into the future - 1 year from today. Imagine it was the best year ever. Tell us what it would look like for the student if it was the best year ever. KEEP IT POSITIVE AND POSSIBLE!!

- **NEEDS** - What does the student need to be successful? What does the school need? What does the family need?

- **ACTION PLAN:** What do we (the team & student) need to do to make the dreams and the future search comes true?

- **WHAT IS THE FIRST STEP and WHO IS GOING TO DO WHAT?**