

I Want to be Real Again

Josh Orr, Individual and Patricia Wilson-Orr, MNRI® Parent, Shaker Heights, OH, USA



Josh Orr lives in Shaker Heights, a suburb of Cleveland, Ohio. He is the third child of Ron and Pat Orr and has an older sister named Amanda and an older brother named Ron. Josh has autism and has been nonverbal all of his life. He started speech and signing therapy at 7 years old and became proficient in American Sign Language by the time he was 10 years old. As early as 9, it was discovered through letterboard communication at the Soma Halo Clinic in Austin that Josh had an extensive vocabulary and an above average understanding of academic material for his age level. Josh started Lightwriter facilitated communication through educators at Syracuse University at the age of 12.

In 2002, when Josh was 10 years old, he experienced PTSD; he was choked at school while being restrained because a teacher thought he knocked over a juice box. We didn't know what happened to him and had neurological testing done. Thereafter, Josh stopped swallowing solid foods and lost 27 pounds. After dropping to 99 lbs. we had a feeding tube inserted and we kept Josh alive through liquids for two years. The cerebral palsy center in Cleveland said Josh had had an 'emotional whip lash'. Later, Josh expressed that he thought that we knew what happened and that is why we took him out of the school program. He said that, because he had food in his throat when he was choked, that feeling terrified him so he stopped swallowing solid foods.

Josh loves biking, social studies, swimming, cooking, and participating in family gatherings for birthdays, holidays, and other celebrations. Presently, Josh is working at the Jewish Community Center, attending classes at Shaker Heights High School, and receives tutoring at home. Josh loves learning and has plans to take courses at Notre Dame College in January, 2015. He will be graduating from high school in May of 2015 and plans to continue his education to become an advocate for nonverbal people with disabilities.

In late 2014 Josh attended the Masgutova Family Conference where he had the opportunity to experience neurosensory reflex integration. Josh had refused to talk about the choking experience for a long time, therefore we were shocked when he started to type about this event during our sessions at the Masgutova Conference through typing on his tablet. He has expressed hope for being a better communicator and participating more fully in his life. Josh's experience has allowed him to move fluidly. With a renewed sense of body awareness and confidence, Josh dreams he can fulfill his goal of going to college after high school like his older



Dr. Masgutova and Josh Orr

siblings. He no longer accepts the self-imposed limits of his disability, and is now practicing verbal communication with an enthusiastic zeal.

At the MNRI® conference on October 25, 2014, Josh wrote:

"i want to feel my body more and i want to bring this [MNRI®] to others in ways to do this. great to be with people who totally realize the real reason we can't show intelligence. i am wanting to do the things that others do feeling this might work to make it possible. have to say want the space that would feel dearly good in saying that i love this method."

And later, Josh wrote:

"Hope I can do whatever I want to do when I am done this week. Either I will be different or ways to change will be obvious. I want to think about really satisfying, all ways--being so darn stuck"

I think this really works for ways to participate in my own life. How can Mom learn to do ways [MNRI® techniques] people did today I can want the really good times to continue. My thoughts for sure I feel that it will be pleasing to talk and talking would really satisfy my life and want it badly I believe it is hard because I don't know ways to be the talker that you think I should be Away with your expectations, you think that I feel pleased with the hard things knowing of my body?"

On October 28, 2014, Josh wrote:

"i love all the people here. you perhaps think i am being funny. love is the real time reality that heals. i am so wanting to be healed of the trama that i experienced when i was a younger boy very anxious to tell you that what happened that day was so bad that it from then on everything was different. i was no longer the boy you knew but then became the boy you know today. want to be real again. can it work that way. i want to say that i am hopeful that it can for the first time in my polite way it has been hell. want to start fresh. want a masterful and was as real people say wonderful and satisfying life. want to say that what you have done for me as we came to experience the barely known method easily satisfies the great way to work with my trauma. thinking quite a lot about sad feelings and easily want to be happy again. i am saying that happy is easily the thing that was missing and i want to have that back. trying to want happy is not the same as being happy. i was not being happy and the sadness is all i have known for a long time. table real life real minds want more. i am can love can real saying that the mind needs real casting to be about the satisfying safe life. my life is wanting to greatly change and darn way can be better if sadness exactly sadness dead time love to can because real love really easily deads sadness. saying we are working so hard to make a quiet change and i feel ready for so much more. you got it. its a huge way to change. i want ways to do more. i want to be me again."



Josh, you have an amazing personality, so deep and so special. Your motivation, curiosity, and high spirit are outstanding and now we see such talent – you are dancing! We are so proud of you! You became a very special friend to our Team. Keep your achievements growing! With our congratulations and admiration – Dr. Masgutova and MNRI® Team