



**LaKeisha P.**  
**Hiram, GA**  
**Born in 1978**  
**Diagnosed in 2002**

*"You can do anything you put your mind to; the only person who you can stop you is you."*

As a student, LaKeisha loved music and was inspired by her reading teacher who was also a police officer. She worked toward a degree in criminal justice until an unexpected pregnancy caused LaKeisha to change her plans.

She was determined to work hard to provide for her daughter and took a job at a railroad. LaKeisha worked her way up and enjoyed success with the company. One night while getting ready for the night shift, she had a weird experience. LaKeisha woke up late for work and her daughter crying, with groceries still at the front door, which was found wide open.

LaKeisha went to the ER where she learned she'd had a seizure. She had several more, and continued to see a neurologist who told her that her seizures were isolated incidents. One day, while driving, LaKeisha had a seizure and crashed into a median on the expressway. She broke many bones in her body and was in a wheelchair for months.

LaKeisha lost her job, house, and car, and had to move into a shelter with her daughter. She became depressed about how her life had changed. One day while at a physical therapy appointment, LaKeisha's daughter found a flier for a "Disability Pride Parade." They went and bonded with other people in similar situations.

LaKeisha is proud to never have given up. Her goals involve educating others about epilepsy so they can get a proper diagnosis and helping others with disabilities -- she even started a Disability Pride Parade in Atlanta to accomplish this goal! She has taken control of her life and is pleased to report that she is enrolled in college full-time and is in the process of buying a new home.

As an Epilepsy Advocate, LaKeisha hopes sharing her personal experience will build further awareness and understanding on living well with epilepsy.