

DEAF/HARD OF HEARING

to be
like me

INTRODUCTIONS



Click on the photo to meet TJ.
He will tell you about himself
and what it's like to be Deaf.

MEET MS.WHEELCHAIR TEXAS 2020 SHAWNETT VIANI

Shawnett enjoys interacting with and meeting all of the different people who come through To Be Like Me. She loves educating others and raising awareness about disabilities. Shawnett has Larsen syndrome and works as an advocate for people with disabilities. Larsen syndrome is a rare genetic disorder that impacts the development of many bones in the body including the tiny bones in the ear. Due to these malformations in the ear bones, Shawnett is Deaf.



Definition and Description

What is the difference between Deaf and hard of hearing?

The term "Deaf" refers to people who cannot hear.

If you capitalize the word "Deaf," it refers to people who identify with Deaf culture and use American Sign Language.

Hard of hearing often refers to mild-moderate hearing loss.

What causes hearing loss?

Hearing loss may be caused by a number of factors, including: genetics, aging, exposure to noise, some infections, birth complications, trauma to the ear, and certain medications or toxins.

How many people in the United States are deaf?

About 600,000 people in America are Deaf. Half of those are over age 65. However, six million people in the United States report having difficulty hearing.

<https://www.nad.org>