

Siffring Receives Spotlight Award

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Braxton Siffring, senior at Shelby-Rising City was recently presented with the Spotlight Award. He is in the center, between presenters Jenn Clark and Tony Green of Nebraska DHHS. Photo provided.

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SHELBY - Braxton Siffring received the Individual Spotlight Award from the Nebraska Health and Human Services. He received this for overcoming adversity to achieve his goals. He has a drive to improve, a desire for independence and a commitment to making his own life better and the lives of others.

He was nominated by Kristen Larson of the Nebraska Department of Developmental Disabilities. Braxton is a senior at Shelby-Rising City. He is autistic, non-verbal and communicates with a device. With strong support of his parents, Kevin and Rachel Siffring, he is an active and valued member of his school and community.

Braxton is active in many activities including 4-H, FFA, student council, EPIC soccer, unified bowling, Special Olympics bowling and track, and as the football student manager. He uses his accommodations to show sheep in 4-H, earning awards and

recognitions. He was featured by Rural Radio Network in 2022 for his accomplishments. He has also attended national FFA convention.

Braxton and his mother have presented at events such as Kids and Dreams Autism Conference, MLK Day in York and Small Town Communities Autism Conference. They share how he uses his device at home, in school and in the community.

Braxton is a leader in the Special Olympics Youth Activation Committee, helping plan a statewide youth summit on unified inclusion for over 200 students.

Braxton is an entrepreneur. He grows and sells plants at farmers' markets with "Braxton's Blooms". He participates annually in the Lincoln Polar Plunge, and raised the most funds in 2025 for Special Olympics of Nebraska.

Braxton exemplifies perseverance, independence and a commitment to bettering his community which made him an outstanding candidate for this award!