

Allison was born in the Hunan Province in China on 3 August 1993. She remained in an orphanage in Changsha until we adopted her in September 1994. Ali lived in Tacoma, Washington, until 1996 when her father was transferred to Ankara, Turkey—he was an Army officer. A few weeks before we left for Turkey, we went to South Korea to adopt a baby brother for Ali. His name is Zack. Soon after, we left for Ankara where we lived for two years and then were transferred to Lawton, Oklahoma for the next two years. While in Turkey, we realized Ali wasn't developing as fully as she should have. After great consultation with many doctors and other health practitioners, Ali was diagnosed with Pervasive Development Disorder (not otherwise specified).

After her dad retired from the US Army in 2000, we moved to Blue Springs, Missouri where we still live. Ali loved school and graduated from Blue Springs High School. Since 2002, Ali played on the same tee-ball team with the Exceptionals program. Starting in 7<sup>th</sup> grade, Ali participated in the school district's Special Olympics activities. She bowled, played basketball, ran track and swam. After her school years, Ali joined the Jackson County Park and Recreation program for Special Populations. Now, she still bowls, plays basketball and bocce, runs track and swims. In addition, she works out at a gym once a week. She loves Special Olympics competitions at the local and state level. In 2018, Ali competed on Team Missouri at the USA Special Olympics games in Seattle, Washington in swimming. Ali won a gold medal for her 100m Individual Medley race, silvers in her 200m breaststroke and medley relay races. Ali placed 6<sup>th</sup> in the 400m freestyle. In addition, Ali has been recognized as the KC Metro Athlete of the year.

In addition to her sporting activities, Ali has taken piano lessons for almost 12 years. She started volunteering at Harvesters and the Great Plains ASPCA. Ali attends a day program, Developing Potential (DPI), in Lee's Summit during the week. At DPI, Ali is the president of the Kiwanis Aktion Club which is a service club for developmentally disabled adults. Ali was recognized as the Lee's Summit DPI Individual of the Year.

Ali likes to go and do! She is a good traveler—she loves eating out and staying in hotels but they must have a pool and preferably with a hot tub. Ali has a dog, Warrior, who she cares for and who cares for her.

