



## My Wish

My name is Argie Lorenzo and I would like to tell you about my son, Danny. Now 19, Danny is the youngest of my four children. He was born with Down Syndrome. My heart broke. I knew I couldn't look back, but look forward and provide the best care that I could for my son.

It hasn't been easy. Danny has been in and out of hospitals and therapy since he was five weeks old. When it came to education, I tried to mainstream him through public schools. That was very challenging. Danny attended five different schools over the course of eight years, none of which could give my son what he really needed. Danny could barely write his name and say his phone number, and I feared that would be all that he could accomplish.

A friend of mine told me about Goodwill's L.I.F.E. Academy.

It has been one of the best decisions I made for Danny. Every day I am amazed at how much he is learning. The Goodwill school enhances and reinforces his pride in himself.

Danny went from barely writing his name to working on excel spreadsheets. He knows his alphabet, his birthday, his phone number, and even how to make change. I can send Danny to the store and feel confident that he knows the money's value. His vocabulary has also improved because Goodwill L.I.F.E. Academy encourages him to speak. Danny can now tell me he wants to be a mechanic. And, in a few years, I know I'll feel okay about leaving Danny alone in our home.

My wish for my son...is no different from any other parent. I want the best of everything for him. And for my Danny, that means feeling confident, sharing his dreams, and living larger than life!

Thank you Goodwill, for making my child a part of the future and the community, and for letting him demonstrate all the potential he has!

“We have hopes and dreams for our children to live a better life than our own. As the mother of a child with special needs, my wishes are no different.”

Argie