



Client Success story

Client Name

Will Lambley

Hometown

Owasso

Their story

Will Lambley looked up at the scoreboard during a semifinal football game in December 2018, and instantly, he knew something was wrong - the score was blurry.

"Then, I was running down the field on a punt and the ball was in the air," Lambley said. "I looked up. I needed to try and find the ball so I can tackle someone. But I didn't know where the ball was."

The eyesight changes led Lambley, who was 16 at the time, and his family on a six-month journey to try and find out what was going on. In May 2019, doctors at John Hopkins Community Physicians in Bethesda, Maryland, diagnosed him with Leber Hereditary Optic Neuropathy. It is a rare disease inherited from a person's mother and causes the person to lose their eyesight, starting with painless blurriness. Eventually, the person may become legally blind.

Lambley learned of DRS Transition Services in February 2019, which would allow him to learn to live an independent life, navigate his community and learn assistive technology that would allow him to continue his education.

"We knew what was going on with my sight, wasn't going to be solved with glasses," he said, adding surgery was also not coming to his rescue.

DRS staff helped him to use JAWS software on his computer. Job Access With Speech, or JAWS, is



screen reader software, developed for computer users whose vision loss prevents them from seeing screen content or using a mouse. JAWS provides speech and Braille control for the most popular software applications and built-in features on a computer.

"What people might look at as a disadvantage in my life, I am able to use as an advantage in my own life and help others by just being positive," Lambley said.

He said people facing similar challenges should look to DRS for help,

"There were just so many resources I did not know were out there," Lambley said. "DRS has helped me with technology and mobility. If it wasn't for DRS, I would not have known that stuff was there."

Lambley is set to graduate in May 2025 and has a podcast with friends. The podcast is called "Rise Above" and is available on podcast services.

DRS staff who helped change a client's life

Services provided and current staff: Counseling and Guidance, Information and Referral, Transition/ Pre-ETS Services - Counselor: Sandy Evans; Orientation & Mobility Services - O&M specialist Jane Lansaw; Assistive technology evaluation, services and recommendations - SBVI AT Specialist Diana Smith; Assistive technology devices - screen reader software and related technology; Assistive technology training with JAWS screen reader.