

## **Beating the Odds!**

*Jorge Murphy is feeling pretty good...*

Jorge, who lives in the Pump Branch House located in Berlin, N.J., recently overcame his nervousness to win a top prize while competing against some of the best bowlers in New Jersey.

Jorge said he was inspired to begin bowling because he wanted to win first place and prove that he can achieve something when he puts his mind to it. He chose bowling because that's his favorite Special Olympic sport.

Jorge began his bowling career in 2012. He was in the Special Olympics tournament in March of 2013 and won third place. Jorge began training in October 2013 for the March 2014 tournament which took place in New Brunswick.

He said he was nervous because he was bowling against the best in the state. He won first place with scores of 96, 112 and 120.

"I felt good and happy and energetic because I have never won first place before," Jorge said.

He appreciated that his teammates were patting him on his back and congratulating him. He also appreciates all the help and kindness of others, especially Mr. James (house manager).

"Bowling was a lot of fun," said Jorge, who is still surprised and excited that he won.

His favorite moment of the bowling season was taking a picture with a teacher-assistant from his school (Burlington County Special Services) with him and his gold medal after his big win.

He had a lot of support from the staff who work with Jorge at his home. He says "thank you God I had them, always telling me I can do it."

Jorge celebrated with the Manager of Pump Branch by going out to lunch.

Jorge, who will graduate from high school this year, won't be continuing with his bowling career as he wants to focus on going to college and finding a job.

Jorge has overcome many hardships in his life and is working hard to make his life positive and fulfilling. He dreams to one day get married, have kids, and live a happy life.

Jorge enjoys playing video games, talking on the phone, going to the movies, going out to eat at the Golden Corral, swimming, riding roller coasters and many more activities, including working on a YouTube video which will be a compilation of his life so far. Stay tuned because there's plenty more to come!

Congratulations Jorge on your accomplishment of first place in bowling.