



- ***“Always looking forward to the brighter things”***



# WHAT IS DMD?

- **Duchenne muscular dystrophy or DMD is a genetic disorder that affects one out of every 3,600 boys worldwide.**
- **DMD is one of the 52 plus muscular disorders, but is more aggressive and it is fatal.**
- **It results in muscle degeneration and eventual death.**
- **The average life expectancy for patients afflicted with DMD is around 25.**
- **Although there are medical treatments that may help slow its progression, there is currently no cure for Duchenne.**



# RYAN “WHEELZ” SCHMIDT IS A FORCE OF NATURE!



- At the age of 4 years old he was diagnosed with Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy. At 7 he was confined to a wheelchair.
- He turned to music to cope with the disease.
- Ryan’s first album was called “In the Beginning” and help to raise funds to find a cure for DMD.
- Ryan doesn’t stop raising awareness through his annual namesake event. He’s often interviewed on television and radio stations.



# SUPPORT FROM FAMILY AND FRIENDS

- **Leslie Schmidt, a TCEQ Contract Specialist for the Air Quality Division, is Ryan's proud mother.**
- **She laid the groundwork for Ryan's non-profit organization named "Inspiration on Wheelz."**
- **She is his number one fan and supporter and works really hard to backup his career and commitments.**



# 4<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL RYAN'S DAY HELD ON SEPTEMBER 28, 2013 AT HANOVER'S IN PFLUGERVILLE

- **Event featured eight local bands and included prizes, face painting, prizes, food & drink.**
- **100% of the proceeds went towards “Inspiration on Wheelz,” devoted to finding a cure for DMD.**
- **Inspiration on Wheelz became official on August 15, 2013 at the Pflugerville City Hall.**



# MESSAGE AND LEGACY

- **Wheelz is continuing with his fundraising, public speaking, and his musical career.**
- **Despite his seemingly impossible circumstances, this young man smiles and continues to create inspirational music.**
- **He call his own music “Inspirational rap,” Ryan said:” “Put God first, and don’t worry about anything. Keep going with whatever the doctor tells you, be proactive and live life to the fullest.”**



**TODAY**

WRITTEN BY: RYAN SCHMIDT



*“ No looking back, no time for the wrong things  
Always looking forward to the brighter things*

*Can't explain why life is short, it's strange  
Loving the time when the rain is gone,*

*Looking at the sky clear with the sun,  
Don't you see the rainbow on that clear day?”*

