Rolin's Journey:

Creativity, Community, and Courage in Beaver Dam, Wisconsin

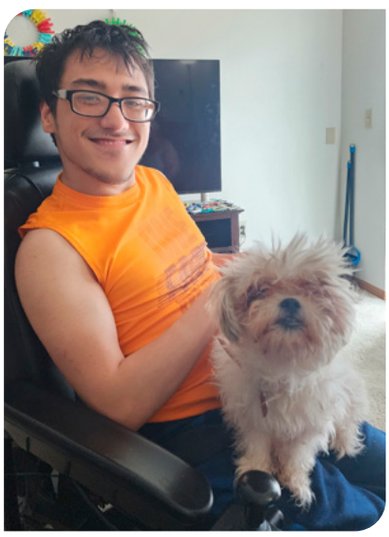
"At My Choice Wisconsin, it's important for us as care teams to listen, offer choices, and help members like Rolin explore options of what is possible. In essence, we are helping people write their story." — Care Manager Jennifer Fischer

Beaver Dam, Wisconsin, is a peaceful community of about 16,400 residents nestled in the greenery of Dodge County, about 40 miles northeast of Madison. Known for its safe neighborhoods and strong sense of community, it's also home to Rolin, a member of My Choice Wisconsin by Molina Healthcare.

Rolin (pronounced RAW lin), 23 years old, lives with his mother Amy, his brother Michael, and their dog, Diamond. His grandparents live nearby, adding to the close-knit family dynamic. We recently had the pleasure of speaking with Rolin to learn more about his passions, his goals, and the vibrant life he leads.

My Choice Wisconsin Care Manager Jennifer Fischer with My Choice Wisconsin member Rolin

Rolin is a creative soul with a love for video games, anime, music, and video production. He enjoys pumpkin spice mochas and has a particular fondness for cactus bread from Pizza Ranch. He loves everything about Halloween, as he should since it's also his birthday. Rolin's mother reminisced how he "came out like a bullet" when he was born and he hasn't slowed down since. Rolin agrees! He proudly describes himself as "one fast dude."



Rolin at home with his biggest fan, Diamond.

Born with cerebral palsy, a condition that affects movement, Rolin uses a motorized wheelchair. He makes his own meals and is self-sufficient, while also receiving support with personal care tasks. Despite his challenges, he leads an active and independent life. He enjoys engaging with new people and constantly seeks out opportunities to grow and explore. His team from My Choice Wisconsin partners with Rolin to assist and aid him with health issues and in moving forward, taking the steps needed to live his best life.

Rolin's interests span from visiting Bank Esports, a local gaming arcade, to attending car shows—especially those featuring

monster trucks. He also enjoys shopping trips to Costco for raspberries and cinnamon bread. At home, Rolin channels his creativity into making videos and mixing music. He dreams of working in media one day, with a focus on audio production.

"I just wish to do what I love and be happy with my life," Rolin shared.

In the play, Cinderella, Rolin performs as a knight who fights off a giant with the others.

With the help of My Choice Wisconsin and his incredible care team, Rolin is breaking barriers, both in his personal life and in his community. While he values his quiet time, Rolin is also deeply engaged in his city. Last November, he began volunteering at the Beaver Dam Area Community Theatre, helping with ticket sales and ushering. After attending a summer production, he was inspired to take the stage himself. "I want to do THAT," he said, setting his sights on auditioning for a role.

Though nervous, Rolin remembered his mother's advice: "Never say never." Thanks to the unwavering support from his family, his My Choice Wisconsin Care Manager Jennifer Fischer and his caregiver Cassandra, Rolin found the confidence to audition for a role in the summer play. He performed a song from High School Musical and read lines with confidence. Singing has always been a part of his life - he participated in school chorus and church performances - and others have praised his talent.

Rolin as a knight, helping Prince Topher search for Cinderella.

Rolin earned a role in Cinderella, joining the ensemble as a knight, a townsman, and a guest at the royal ball. Rehearsals began in May and continued through August, leading up to the show's premiere. With four dress rehearsals and eight performances scheduled, Rolin was committed to giving his best.

"Honestly, it was tough," he admitted. "There was a lot to remember, but I asked for stage cues and that helped." Rolin not only had to memorize lines but also learn choreography, blocking, and execute quick costume changes for the various characters he portrayed. The production team implemented several strategies to ensure his success. A note card tucked discreetly into his chair provided stage directions at a glance. An assistant was stationed backstage for every dress rehearsal and performance to facilitate quick changes, manage props, and clear paths as Rolin navigated the stage. When he was on stage, a dedicated actor in each scene ensured he was in his correct position and that his movement areas remained open and safe. The process was both collaborative and creative, reflecting the cast and crew's shared commitment to making sure every performer, no matter their needs, could shine.

The Beaver Dam Area Community Theatre's mission is Theatre For Everyone, and they really take that to heart. Christina Frake, the volunteer coordinator and "Charlotte" in Cinderella told us, **"We loved having Rolin in the cast. He was such a pleasure to work with and made everyone smile. Rolin was never afraid to ask questions about his role, and he showed up to every rehearsal. He has an incredible voice."**

Christina went on to say, "I first met Rolin as a volunteer, and even then, he was so positive and fun to be around. He once came to a karaoke fundraiser and absolutely brought the house down with an alternative rock song. No one expected it, and it was such a joyful

surprise to hear how talented he was. When I saw him at auditions, I was thrilled. I honestly thought he had been in shows before, if he was nervous, I couldn't tell. He's a natural performer."

The cast of the Beaver Dam Area Community Theatre's 2025 production of Cinderella.

Everyone was excited to have Rolin in the cast, but there were logistical transportation issues that needed to be taken care of, the biggest one was getting Rolin to the theatre. Coordinating transportation and support for evening and weekend rehearsals in a small town was no easy task. With the help of Danielle Williams, a Regional Manager with My Choice, Jennifer collaborated with KPI, Rolin's supportive care team, to ensure he had the assistance he needed. Once the providers learned about the opportunity, they eagerly stepped up. "They all like Rolin, were excited for him, and wanted to be a part of this. They wanted to see Rolin succeed," Jennifer said. Many attended the show to cheer him on.

"We rehearsed five nights a week, Sunday through Thursday, often from 7 to 10 p.m. As opening night approached, every cast member was called more frequently, and rehearsals sometimes ran late. Rolin's support team was remarkable, patient, flexible, and fully invested in helping him succeed. On nights when transportation became tricky, they problem solved alongside us, even coordinating a last-minute accessible ride so he could stay through the end of rehearsal. Backstage, they navigated crowded wings and tangled curtains with quiet efficiency. Their dedication made it possible for Rolin to focus just on performing. We could not have done it as effectively without them," shared Christina.

A royal banquet is announced to find Cinderella.

The theatre team was incredibly supportive, adapting choreography to include Rolin's wheelchair and ensuring he felt confident on stage. Jennifer noted that the production was very balanced, with cast members of all ages and abilities contributing to the performance. Jennifer shared, "They adapted the dances so Rolin fit right in with his wheelchair. There were older folks in the cast that sat during the songs as people danced around them and Rolin. It was balanced on stage, and it was beautiful."

"The dancing was adapted for me, and it was great," Rolin said. "It was nerve-racking at first, but watching and learning from others helped me build confidence." He smiled and added, "Look at me. I'm in a wheelchair and in a play. I'm just a regular guy."

His team from My Choice Wisconsin connects with Rolin on a regular basis to make sure that his needs are being met but also that his dreams and aspirations are being heard. Jennifer shared "it's important for us as his care team to listen to Rolin. We want to figure out his likes and dislikes and how we can help. We want to offer choices to him and help Rolin explore options of what is possible. In essence, we are helping people write their story."

When asked what his future holds, he said that he will continue working with the theatre group, ushering, and handling tickets. He would like to take classes and do more in the community. Then Rolin shyly smiles, looks up and says he's excited for the next opportunity whenever it presents itself. Indeed! This one fast dude is ready.