Diagnosed with autism at age 3, Daniel has spent the majority of his life advocating for others with autism or other intellectual disabilities. He was honored for helping to create a training program to teach firefighters, police, EMTs, and others how someone with autism may react in an emergency situation, and the best way for them to respond. Daniel was assisted in this six-year project by his father, Fire Chief Brian Focht. Their work included collaborating with Dr. Beverly Frantz of Temple University to develop a video called “First Responders and Autism.” The video has been posted online and has since gone national. To date over 5,000 emergency responders have received this training. Daniel often learns of specific instances where his program made a difference. He considers that the best reward of all!