

**crowdFunnit Helps Ayden Carter Share 10<sup>th</sup> Birthday With Community**

Young autistic boy to throw a birthday party to bring awareness against alienation and bullying.

**Bedford, VA:** Working with the crowdFunnit project, 10-year-old music enthusiast Ayden Carter is plans to *moonwalk* over alienation and bullying, making his upcoming birthday a community celebration. Saturday, October 17th, 2015 from 1 to 4 PM at Falling Creek Park in Bedford, VA, DJ Joshua Clougherty of Bass, Steak and Fries, will be mixing and scratching Michael Jackson tunes along with other great music and you are an honored guest. Hurricane Juaquin merely postponed the party. All the wonderful volunteers adjusted their schedules accordingly so they could attend.

Ayden and his family learned of crowdFunnit, which raises awareness about differences while fostering acceptance and compassion, while attending a recent crowdFunnit party for Daymien Manus. Diagnosed with autism, ADHD, and sensory processing disorder, socialization has been a difficult endeavor for him. His school counselor, Jason Edwards, works with Ayden daily to improve his socialization skills and encourages him to befriend classmates. "It's heartbreaking when he comes to us just about every day saying he's so lonely. He says everyone thinks he is weird," said his mom Rebecca. He is so excited about this party, the opportunity to meet other children that are like him and people who he feels won't judge him.

Since his crowdFunnit page, Reddit post and open-invite Facebook page went up last week, RSVPs and heartfelt well-wishes from across the nation have poured in: "You are ahead of a lot of other people your age because you are unique and intelligent, so never think there is anything 'wrong' with you," one response said.

Complete strangers have offered their services to make this party a huge success. Local bakery, Superior Sweets, has offered to create a one-of-a-kind birthday cake; Rayne Ashton from Rayne Ashton's Photography has offered to photograph the event; the Matt Kidd Cancer Awareness Monster Truck will be on site; and DJ Joshua Clougherty will be driving three hours from Herdon, Va, for the event. "I saw the post on Reddit and I had to check it out," said Clougherty. "My heart just went out to Ayden and I thought it would be a good opportunity to help out. Having a similar experience myself, being on the autism spectrum growing up and understanding how that felt, I decided I had to reach out."

"Ayden saw that his story has been shared in several states already and he can't believe it! He said, "I need to lie down, I think I'm going to faint,"" said Rebecca.

Ayden, his family and the crowdFunnit team look forward to hosting you, extending the invitation to like-minded, kindhearted individuals to come out for a day of fun, food, friendship, lots of great music, and of course, dancing! "We all have our struggles on a day to day basis and this is a great opportunity to share something wonderful," added Clougherty.

Sunday, **October 17, 2015, 12:00pm - 4:00pm** Falling Creek Park 1257 Country Farm Rd Bedford, VA 24523

<http://crowdfunnit.org/2015/09/18/ayden-carter/>

<https://www.gofundme.com/aydencarter>

<https://www.facebook.com/events/404106873046347/>

crowdFunnit Crowd-Sources Special Events For Special Kids: crowdFunnit, a project of the 501(c)3 nonprofit Cherab Foundation, was created to brings people together, raising awareness about differences while fostering acceptance and compassion. Helping a friendless child celebrate a birthday is just an incredible mechanism in which to help make this happen. The party itself and any media attention it brings will help fight bullying at the root while the community connections will exist long after the party ends.