Bailey was born 6 weeks premature and spent the first 3 months of her life in the I.C.U. At only 6 hours old, she underwent surgery for tracheoesophageal fistula and esophageal atresia repair, feeding tube, and colostomy bag. She was on an arsenal of medications, 8 of which were intended to be lifelong, as were the g-tube and colostomy bag.

With incredible medical and community support and the grace of God, Bailey was able to transition off all medications and has no medical concerns today at the age of 22. Her parents were amazed as she began to hit benchmarks and milestones pretty much on target with her nondisabled peers. She attended preschool in an inclusive environment and graduated from Frisco I.S.D. After 12th grade, Bailey was accepted into the Frisco I.S.D. Step Beyond Vocational Training program. This allowed her the opportunity to go into the community to learn both life and job skills.

Bailey was part of a well-structured volunteer program and was selected into a 3 year paid internship at Baylor Scott and White Hospital Frisco. After completing the internship at Baylor, she starting a job training program at PDQ Chicken and Salads in Frisco and loves her job! She works the dining room, drive thru, and helps prepare supplies for the next work shift. Her strong points at work are her customer service skills, and she can make an outstanding handmade milkshake!

Bailey has been a member of the Down Syndrome Guild since birth and is concluding a 3 year term on the Board of Directors in May. She attends all planning meetings and helps make decisions on the direction of the organization. She is also one of the first to volunteer and help raise funds at events like the annual family picnic, fall conference, golf classic, Buddy Walk, and more. Additionally, Bailey has represented the DSG at the National Down Syndrome Congress Convention in Denver, CO, and was featured on the cover of the 2014 calendar with Chris Harrison.

Bailey is also active in her community with other organizations such as SMU Best Buddies, Special Olympics, Prestonwood Baptist Church Special Needs Ministry, Pro Spirit SN competitive Cheer Team, Changing the Face of Beauty, and volunteers with ShowHomes of Dallas. Bailey will also be recognized at the 2017 DFW Night of Superstars gala, which seeks to honor their Superstar’s accomplishments despite their challenges. When Bailey gets a moment of free time, she loves to snow ski, paddle board, work out, read, watch movies, and listen to music.

The DSG is so proud of Bailey and all that she has accomplished. We are certain that Bailey will continue to be an inspiration and advocate in her community and are honored to recognize her as our Self Advocate Ambassador for May 2017.