



*Left to right: Theresa Koleszar – Director, Bureau of Rehabilitation Services, Macaleigh Reynolds, Yulia Reynolds and Tina Skeel – IN-APSE President.*

## Yulia Reynolds

Yulia was born and raised in an orphanage in the Ukraine where she was subjected to unthinkable living conditions with little to no medical attention or education. She would only speak to her twin sister, and they had their own language to communicate back and forth.

Yulia and her twin sister were adopted when they were nine years old and brought to the United States. She weighed 39 pounds and was barely three feet tall. Yulia relied on her sister

for everything. Her twin sister was her protector, her voice and her leader. It took many years of progress but she no longer relies upon her twin to be her voice. She no longer feels the need to follow in her twin's footsteps, she now follows her own path.

Yulia has overcome much, learning a new language, learning to eat a normal diet, various social skills and going to school for the first time. She has had to learn to trust and rely on others, letting go of some of the survival skills learned when she was younger.

She is a bright, charming and kind hearted young lady who continues to work hard on learning new things, challenging herself, and making her mother and sister proud. She tries very hard to advocate for herself and others in and out of her work environment.

Yulia was placed in an internship through Sycamore Services at IU Health West Hospital. She impressed hospital staff and was extended an offer of employment. Yulia works in the dietary department doing dishes and helping the kitchen staff. Tess Kunkle with Sycamore Services tells us "Yulia is an excellent employee, never calls in or asks off except for family trips. Yulia is always willing to help her co-workers even when she has had a long day herself. She loves to make people smile and make their day better in some way. Yulia is an inspiration and a role model for anyone who is lucky enough to know her."