

# Grace Burke

## 2021 Adult Honoree

Grace Burke is your typical millennial. When she's not working, you'll find her hanging out with friends, playing on her laptop, or dancing around the house. The only thing that sets her apart from her peers is an extra copy of chromosome 21.

"Grace has been such a huge blessing in our lives," says Jill Burke, Grace's mom.

Grace has always been outgoing and social, so it should come as no surprise that the 22-year old has been selected as the 2021 Virtual 3.21 Run Adult Honoree. "She was so excited, she couldn't stop giggling and cheering when she found out she was going to be the honoree," Jill adds.

After completing high school at Hamilton Southeastern, Grace started participating in programs like EPIC, GiGiFIT Adult, and SMART at the Playhouse where she's met some of her best friends. "Before COVID-19 hit, she and her friends were out volunteering with GiGi's," Jill says. "I loved that she got to get out and help others. It's been priceless."



Grace also works at ULTA Beauty, "folding towels, dusting, and putting samples in bags," Grace says.

"We are so very thankful that the acceptance and opportunities for individuals with Down syndrome have increased significantly since Grace was born," Jill says.

Jill recommends parents of individuals with Down syndrome get involved with programs like GiGi's early and meet other parents and families. A great way to do that is to participate in a playhouse fundraiser like the Virtual 3.21 Run. Grace is registered to run with her EPIC team on June 5<sup>th</sup>.

"I'm going to raise money on Facebook and by asking a lot of friends," Grace adds. She might even rope her four siblings into participating. Her advice to others? "Get out there and raise money! Support GiGi's Playhouse!"

