

## Trinity Neal

### Transgender Teen

### Wilmington, Delaware

Trinity Neal is a black, transgender 14-years-old teen, from Wilmington, DE. She began expressing that she was a girl and not the boy that her family thought her to be at age 3. This was in 2006 before there were any resources for her family to learn about transgender children. By 3 ½ years-old, Trinity was depressed and became withdrawn. Her mother and father set out and found a therapist to help them all. By age 4, Trinity started living as a girl all the time and went on to thrive in preschool.

When it came time for Trinity to start puberty blockers, the state Medicaid denied coverage. She and her family wrote letters to the director of Medicaid, the secretary of Health and Social Services, and the Governor. After eight months of advocating, the denial was reversed, and Trinity became the first transgender minor to get Medicaid to cover her transition. After her win, Medicaid changed their entire policy to include coverage for other transgender minors in the state.

Having been homeschooled since her transition, Trinity is excited about starting high school in 2018. She hopes to be a video game developer when she's older. Her family continues to support her as she grows and tells her story. She and her family have done various media, documentary shorts, a feature in the National Geographic gender issue, and even got the chance to meet President Obama and First Lady Michelle Obama. Trinity's dream is to see more gender and racially diverse video game characters. She wants to be the ones that creates them.

As a transgender teen who transitioned a decade ago, Trinity continues to believe that with time, the world will not make laws about who she is. She wants to be seen as any teen girl but will also keep sharing her story with those who wish to learn more about what it's like to be a transgender person.



#### At-a-Glance

- Black transgender teen
- Transitioned a decade ago
- Helped change Medicaid policy
- Media exposure and experience

For more information about this community member contact NCTE's Communication Manager, Jay Wu, at [jwu@transequality.org](mailto:jwu@transequality.org)

For more information about NCTE's Families for Trans Equality network contact NCTE's Family Organizers, DeShanna Neal ([dneal@transequality.org](mailto:dneal@transequality.org)) or Debi Jackson ([djackson@transequality.org](mailto:djackson@transequality.org))