

# Trail of compliments leads to special promposal

Caurie Putnam, Democrat and Chronicle, WVEC 7:48 PM. EST March 18, 2016



(Photo: Photo from Stacy Hurley)

*BROCKPORT, N.Y. -- Growing up with a twin brother who has a disability, Diana McMillion, 17, learned firsthand how important shared experiences are.*

*So, when she realized her brother Dwight's best friend, Ketchel Clements, 18, had no plans to go to the Brockport High School prom on May 7, she came up with an idea.*

*When Diana realized her twin brother's best friend Ketchel didn't have plans to go to prom, she hatched a plan that led to this very memorable 'promposal.' VPC*

*"I felt like because Ketchel and I are both seniors we should both have the chance to enjoy the prom," McMillion said. "I wanted to have the opportunity to spend this special moment with him."*

*Clements has Cornelia de Lange syndrome (CdLS). It is a rare genetic disorder that causes a range of physical, cognitive and medical challenges.*

*Diana asked Ketchel's mom whether it was OK to invite Clements to the prom.*

*Diana's "always been so gracious and wonderful. She's always included Ketchel in everything and made him feel like he was part of the group," Clements mother, Chris, said.*

*After getting her permission, she also got the OK from Brockport High School officials to stage a surprise "promposal" (a clever way to ask someone to the prom) at the school, in front of friends, family and staff.*

*On March 15, Ketchel was escorted out of his classroom and greeted with a trail of 48 cards that contained lots of compliments, like, "You always make me laugh" and "You're one of a kind."*

*The cards were easy for McMillion, a former cheerleader and a member of the Brockport Police Department's Explorers Post, to write.*

*"He's a very special person," McMillion said. "He can make anyone laugh without saying a word. I'm glad to say he's my friend."*

*Now, he's her prom date.*

*"It was awesome. Going to the prom is something he wouldn't have had the opportunity to otherwise," Chris Clements said.*

*Ketchel, a member of the district's Unified basketball team, said "Yes" when the trail of cards led him to McMillion, who stood in a decorated foyer of the high school and popped the question: "Would you like to go to the prom with me?"*

*Teacher Stacy Hurley was in on the plan and she witnessed the promposal.*

*"Ketchel had no idea and was very surprised!" said Hurley, Ketchel's teacher. "He has known Diana for years. He loves to dance, is very social, has a lot of friends and I know will have a lot of fun at the prom."*

*For as much as a surprise as the promposal was, and even though Ketchel did not know what a prom was, his teacher was not totally shocked by McMillion's plan:*

*"To know Ketchel is to love him," she said.*

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