



**Brain Injury  
Alliance**  
ARIZONA

## Unstoppable Josette Ulibarri Wants You to Have a Positive Body Image



When talking with Josette Ulibarri, it's her bubbly personality and confidence that really shine through. Not only is she passionate about Arizona men and women feeling body positive, but as a newly crowned Miss Wheelchair Arizona, she is going to spend the next year attending various events and preaching what she practices, because she wants everyone to feel as confident as she does.

Josette was born with Tetra-Phocomelia, meaning she doesn't have any limbs. However, her condition hasn't slowed her down one bit from accomplishing all she desires in life. Growing up, Josette was never treated by her family as though she had a disability. As a result, she is now a strong, bold woman who wants to live with no excuses and no limits. Josette told BIAAZ, "even if you are born with a disability, you are not limited." Her mantra is: "I am limitless; only I can limit myself." Josette lives by this motto and now, as Ms. Wheelchair Arizona 2017, her title is taking her to new heights. From indoor skydiving to raising awareness at local events, Josette is up for any experience.

While her title has opened many new doors for her, she's still getting used to wearing the crown and sash. The highlight of her experience so far has been attending the BIAAZ Rays of Hope Survivor and Caregiver Educational Conference, where she was a guest of honor. Although Josette is not a traumatic brain injury survivor, attending a conference where dozens of both professionals and survivors were presenting was an amazing opportunity. She enjoyed being in such a supportive environment and hearing everyone's inspiring success stories.



Along with her title of Ms. Wheelchair Arizona 2017, Josette is also a life coach, vegan, and a featured model in *Curves: Art Photography Book*, which showcases the many shapes and forms of women. She was featured in the book after reaching out to the photographer to tell her "if you really want to show all types of women, you need to include a woman with disabilities." Her passion for being body positive is clear and she laughs as she admits that every time she looks in a mirror, she always compliments herself because she really believes what you say to yourself matters. Josette will be competing in the Ms. Wheelchair America 2018 pageant later this summer, and as a life coach, she hopes to create dream boards with her clients and impart what she has learned to others.