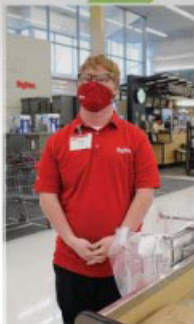


Rewarding Work Produces Smiles



"Yesterday was a super exciting day!" beams Macy Lohman. As an employment specialist for MRCI, Macy never gets tired of the joy of seeing someone we serve succeed. Happily, she gets to experience that feeling a lot while working for our Employment Exploration Program.

"I look forward to my job every day because every day is different," she explains. "For instance, I had been working with John Hunter for a few months to explore if working in the community would be best for him now. He shared his dream job has always been to work at Hy-Vee. I took him there for a tour and informational interview. Well, they offered him a position on the spot!"

Macy's enthusiasm for her work can be found throughout the organization as staff daily strive to meet our mission of providing innovative and genuine opportunities for individuals with disabilities at home, at work and in the community.

One such innovative program is the one John Hunter went through: Employment Exploration.

"The staff really listened and got to know who I am. I had so much fun and, oh boy, am I excited about my new job!" says John. "I know I am going to do a really great job because MRCI has been teaching me and I am going to make them proud!"

You may see John next time you are at Hilltop Hy-Vee, where he works as a courtesy clerk. John and Macy aren't the only ones beaming about the accomplishment.

"He would work 24/7 if he could," says John's mom Susan Hunter. "Since March of 2020 he has been out of a job due to the pandemic. He has coped by creating a schedule of long walks, household chores, shoveling and now yard work. Now he has been given the opportunity he's been waiting for: to be a Hy-Vee employee. He's also very proud of his Hy-Vee uniform."

Anyone that knows John is not surprised by his success. "He continues to exceed every expectation we had for him," says Susan. "He has always been a social person who values his family and friends. He has an amazing memory and we refer to him as our family historian. He can name the date for almost every event. He also memorized our church hymn book- if you want to know a hymn he can tell you the hymn number. He has an awesome, enviable work ethic."

John will remain an MRCI client, but has transitioned to employment support with MRCI, so if either he or his employer need assistance, MRCI staff are available to help him learn and develop in his job.

"He has been working extremely hard these past months so it's great to see all of this unfold!" says Macy.

For more information on our Employment Exploration program or any of the exciting employment programs at MRCI, call Nate Lotton at (507) 386-5636.

To find out about employment opportunities in a rewarding field, contact Lindsey Ferguson at (507) 386-5710.



About MRCI

MRCI provides genuine opportunities for people with disabilities and disadvantages at home, at work and in the community. Please help us with that mission by volunteering of your time and talents! Please call 507-386-5600 to make a difference today!