

A Supported Employment Success Story: Trevor Richen

Background:

The minute Trevor graduated from high school, he was ready to find employment. He knew he wanted a job working with the public (preferably in a grocery store), but he also knew that his autism might make it difficult for him to focus on tasks. Trevor is very sensitive to sounds and visual distractions.

So he decided to go to Vocational Rehabilitation to hire a job developer. He was very excited to start working with Melissa. After some discussion with his new job developer, Trevor decided that he would be able to work best with in an environment that provided clear expectations and a regular routine.

Strengths:

When he came to UCP, Trevor already had some work experience, gained during a transition program at his high school. His interest in grocery stores came through his work as a Stocker at Rite Aid. He really enjoyed stocking the shelves and facing the items.

Trevor also had experience volunteering at the Neighborhood House, preparing and distributing food boxes to needy families.

Trevor is a very friendly person, who enjoys chatting with people. He has a knack for remembering names and dates.



TREVOR, HARD AT
WORK

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TREVOR RICHEN

The Right Job Match:

Trevor REALLY wanted to work in a grocery store as a Courtesy Clerk. His job developer, Melissa, was a little worried because she thought that a position like that might not offer as much routine Trevor desired.

In an effort to identify whether or not a Courtesy Clerk position would be a good fit, Trevor did a week-long Trial Work Experience at Market of Choice. During this unpaid work experience, Trevor learned that he really did love being a Courtesy Clerk. He got to chat with people and stay very busy, and there was enough routine to keep him calm and happy.

After a week of watching Trevor work, the store manager offered him a job. Trevor gladly accepted, but decided that he would need a little job coaching in order to be the best Courtesy Clerk possible.

Trevor's Job Coach created some lists that would help him stay on task and make his job more routine. She also worked very closely with his co-workers; together, they identified some areas of social appropriateness that Trevor could work on.

But after a few short months of training, Trevor was ready to be on his own. He has been working independently and successfully since January 2008, and recently began to work in a full-time position. He says that he is "very happy." Good job, Trevor!

