



October 2017

Client's Success Embodiment of Agency Mission

Carey Services' mission statement talks about helping people to abilities and barriers into opportunities.

Jonathan Cain is a great example of that.

Jonathan said he was often told as a child that he would not be successful in life because of his disability. He was called names in school, and he was told his life goals would be impossible to reach because of the challenges his disability presented.

But Jonathan credits his involvement with Carey Services in helping him accomplish far more than anyone — including himself — ever dreamed possible.

Before Jonathan began working with Carey services, he already was dealing with a major challenge. He spent his time and energy caring for his mother who was battling cancer. During this season of Jonathan's life, he was the primary caregiver of his own caregiver and guardian.

"She was taking care of me, and I was taking care of her," Jonathan says, as he recalls his last memories of his mother.

When Jonathan' lost his mother, he also lost his primary focus in life. His caregiving role for his mother was over, and he did not know where to turn. He moved in with his brother and began working at Carey Services to fill hours in his day and fill his pockets with spending money.

When he started in the agency's production facility, he assembled birdfeeders. He said he was proud of the job he had because he was able to see the exact birdfeeders he assembled being sold at nearby stores. He said he liked seeing he had a job that was impacting his community. When the production facility quit

producing birdfeeders, Jonathan began working on the facility's new project, prep work on fiberboard packaging for a local manufacturer.

After two years in the workshop, Jonathan felt confident and prepared to pursue a community job. Carey Services' employment services department was able help Jonathan work through the job search process.

Employment specialists and job coaches helped Jonathan as he applied for positions, prepared for and completed interviews, and — ultimately — help him navigate his first days of employment at the Marion Meijer.

Today, Jonathan proudly will say to anyone who asks that he has worked on the receiving line at Meijer, unloading trucks, for 13 months.

Looking to the future, he is working toward obtaining his driver's license, and hopes to achieve that accomplishment by the end of the year. Success in that endeavor, he said, would be his greatest accomplishment thus far. He said he never thought he would be able to operate a vehicle, but through the support and encouragement he has received through relationships with the people at Carey Services, he has gotten this far on his road to accomplish this lifelong goal.

"I was always told 'You will never be able to finish high school, you will never hold a job, you will never be able to drive,'" he said. "But everything people have told me I would never be able to do, I have done it."

His dreams don't stop there. He has dreams to one day move into his own home, get married and start a family. "I am just like any other person. I have the same dreams in life as any other man."

Remembering everyone who told him he would not be successful because of his disability, and offers a few words to them: "Look at me now. I am a man now."

Jonathan is a great testimony to the power of overcoming great odds.

"Falling down and getting right back up, that is what I have done," he said.

Jonathan said he recommends Carey Services to anyone who dreams for more for themselves. "It is a good starting point for anyone in the disabled community."