

Pathways to Competitive Integrated Employment

William's Story

Meet William, a friendly and engaging 55-year-old passionate about movies, comics, anime, and travel. Born on Halloween, he's a big fan of horror movies, especially those featuring Michael Myers.

Recently, William fulfilled a long-time dream by traveling to California with Exceptional Travelers, where he explored Warner Bros. Studios and immersed himself in the world of his favorite stories. Alongside his adventures, William is gaining meaningful independence through his work at Brentwood Assisted Living Center.

Finding Purpose at Brentwood

William's job at Brentwood has become a source of pride and connection. He has had the opportunity to gain skills in several service and dining related areas. "I help serve drinks, clean up, and set up the kitchen. "I help serve drinks, clean up, and set up the kitchen. "I help serve drinks, clean up, and set up the kitchen. It keeps me busy," he says with a smile. The role fits



his strengths and interests, allowing him to stay active while building relationships with residents and coworkers.

Navigating Challenges

The road to finding this fit wasn't straightforward. Previously, William had been working in a sheltered workshop. When it closed, he began looking for other jobs. He found one he thought he might enjoy at Saint Andrews, but it turned out to be more physically demanding than he realized. Heavy lifting aggravated his back problems, he realized that he needed a job that aligned better with his abilities.

Paladin, an agency that helps individuals find meaningful work and housing, stepped in to help support William's employment goals. Paladin connected William to Brentwood, where he found a job he liked and in an environment he enjoyed. Because of Paladin's housing supports, William met

For more information: [Center on Community Living and Careers/Employment](#)

his goal of living in stable housing. Now he lives in a group home with roommates and supportive staff.

A Passion for Connection and Exploration

What makes William's story stand out is how his job helped him to pursue his love for travel. Recently, William returned from a trip to California, where he toured Warner Bros. Studios, and he immersed himself in the world of his favorite stories. Working at Brentwood allows him to save money for these adventures, adding another layer of meaning to his employment.

William also finds joy in connecting with the residents at Brentwood. He has become a friendly face, known for his positive attitude and willingness to help. For William, the social aspect of his job is as rewarding as the paycheck.

Ingredients for Success

- **Natural supports network:** A key part of William's success has been having a job coach. The job coach has helped him navigate the hiring process, organize paperwork, and adapt to the responsibilities of his role. The encouragement and check-ins from his coach, combined with the

welcoming environment at Brentwood, have allowed William to grow in his role. "Having someone to help you figure things out and check in makes it easier to stick with it," William explains.

- **Personal growth goals:** William is already planning his next adventure while continuing to grow in his role at Brentwood. He believes that meaningful employment can open doors—not just to financial stability but also to personal fulfillment, new experiences, and lasting connections.

Words of Wisdom

William encourages others seeking community employment to find roles that match their interests and to lean on supportive networks. "Find something that keeps you moving and people who can guide you," he shares.

He also emphasizes the value in asking for help and guidance from others. The check-ins from his job coach, combined with the welcoming environment at Brentwood, have allowed William to grow in his role. "Having someone to help you figure things out and check in makes it easier to stick with it," William explains.



With funding from the **Indiana Division of Disability and Rehabilitative Services**