



GOING GREAT DISTANCES FOR REACH

Katherine is an adventurous, clever young woman who loves to play practical jokes on her family and friends.

She has been a CEL member since 2011 attending both after-school and teen programs. When she graduated high school, her mom was comforted knowing that she would be able to attend the REACH Adult Day Program.

Since her time at REACH, she has grown tremendously - trying new things, such as being social and interacting with the world around her. **She is fulfilled.** However, the commute from Rolling Meadows to Riverwoods was taking a toll on Katherine's mom, Sandy. Attending REACH five days a week, with two round trips per day, **Sandy was spending nearly 10 hours per week in the car bringing Katherine to and from the program she loves.**

While Sandy was willing to make those sacrifices for Katherine, when she found out there was a chance that REACH would be opening a location much closer to home in the Northwest suburbs, she was 100% on board to ensure that it became a reality.

And on Monday, September 25th, REACH Northwest officially opened its doors with 5 members a day. Josh is a new REACH member who heard about REACH Northwest at a Transition Fair and quickly joined the group - getting acclimated to the new space and exploring their community!



Katherine and Josh at the International Sculpture Garden in Schaumburg

We are excited that REACH Northwest has opened and that the word is spreading throughout the community! CEL is bringing more choices to the Northwest suburbs for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. As the REACH Northwest Adult Day Program continues to grow, CEL will bring additional social and enrichment programs to the area. **Your support of CEL means that we can continue serving those unmet needs in the community – providing programs in areas where there is so little for people with developmental disabilities.**

Thank you for your continued support!

P.S. Read more about our new REACH Northwest in the Daily Herald at <http://www.dailyherald.com/news/20170921/program-for-developmentally-disabled-adults-coming-to-hoffman-estates>



EMPLOYMENT STORIES >

CREATING A MORE INCLUSIVE WORKPLACE

Hiring people with developmental disabilities creates a rich, inclusive and diverse work environment. CEL's Employment Opportunities Program is about connecting members who are looking for meaningful work with employers who are looking to enhance their organization.

Steve was looking for an opportunity to earn a paycheck and be part of the team. Steve had tried part-time jobs in the past, but he often found the tasks to be too complex, leading to frustration.

Working with CEL's Employment Opportunities Manager, Steve discovered that many of the skills he had developed volunteering at Habitat for Humanity and at previous jobs were transferable. CEL helped Steve connect to CDW's Distribution Center in Vernon Hills to see what they had to offer.

After touring the distribution center, Steve accepted a position loading semis for delivery. Steve has found success working at CDW! He has been employed for over 50 days and has a paycheck to take home every week!



Learn how you can make your organization better by hiring people with developmental disabilities through our Employment Opportunities Program at <http://bit.ly/CELEmployment>

MOMENTS >

MOMENTS MADE POSSIBLE BY YOU



A perfect fall afternoon spent at the Milwaukee County Zoo brought members together to enjoy the weather, animals and friends - old and new! Thank you for supporting members as they are actively engaged in community life!

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