14 Years Strong: Andrea Builds a Life of Pride, Independence, Joy in Her Work

Andrea's dedication and energy are clear from the moment you meet her. She is warm, full of energy and instantly friendly, engaging with people easily and sharing her experiences with enthusiasm. Andrea has loved working in janitorial services for as long as she can remember.



"I like things nice and tidy," she says.

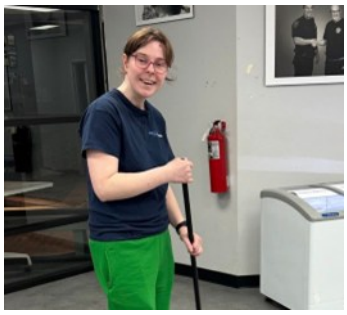
Andrea takes pride in building a career in the same industry for 14 years, and work is central to her life, providing her with independence and the freedom to enjoy other passions.

"I like cleaning things; my room at my house is the cleanest part of the whole place," Andrea explains.

She remembers always being organized, even as a child. That attention to detail carries into her current role with Executive Cleaning, where she handles everything from sweeping and mopping to cleaning the coffee machine and bathrooms. Andrea uses a checklist to stay on track and make sure she completes all her assigned duties every night — a simple step that allows her to self-direct her tasks and check her own work.

Her parents have been a strong influence and source of support as Andrea has built her career. "My mom was a physical therapy assistant, and she just retired at 72," Andrea shares. "She likes that I work; she says it is good for me to get out and be busy."

Andrea's father has also played a key role in helping her gain financial independence. "My dad opened an ABLE account for me," Andrea says. "I've been working since I was 21 years old. I've been saving it up, and I don't touch the money in my ABLE account."



An Oregon ABLE account is a tax-advantaged savings account that allows eligible individuals with disabilities to save and invest for qualified expenses without jeopardizing government benefits. This financial independence allows Andrea to spend her money on things that bring her joy, from buying gifts for her parents at Christmas to treating herself to a new shirt.

Even after 14 years, Andrea's commitment to her work shows no sign of slowing down.

"I'm never, ever, ever going to retire, because when you retire, you don't make any money. Yeah, so I'm never going to retire. I'm going to come to work in a walker or a wheelchair."

Now that is some hard core dedication!