

Volunteerism Boosts Self-Confidence, Builds Skills



Jonathan is enrolled in The Arc Lane County's Employment Path program, where he is building transferrable work skills while volunteering for local nonprofit organizations.

Most afternoons, Jonathan can be found volunteering at one of three job sites: FOOD for Lane County, BRING Recycling and NextStep Recycling. He volunteers about 15 hours each week, sorting and stocking items.

Through his volunteer work, Jonathan has gained valuable job skills. He is very organized, punctual and understands how to work with customers.

In addition to gaining valuable job skills, Jonathan has gained confidence that will serve him well in his search for meaningful employment.

"Jonathan used to be very timid and shy, but volunteering has helped him tremendously." says Celsey Dawson, The Arc Lane County associate director of the Employment Path and the World of Work programs. "He is more confident, and he is now training other volunteers at FOOD for Lane County."

Jonathan is ready to enter the workforce, and he's currently searching for meaningful employment. His goal is to work in customer service, where he can utilize the people skills he has learned from his volunteer work. He would like to work for a local grocery store or a fast-food restaurant, that no doubt, will be lucky to have such a committed and reliable employee.