

The Insider

Getting to know the PossAbilities Community

Longstanding Partnership

For the past eight years, a group of PossAbilities participants have made the Bryon Pet Clinic shine. Two days a week for about two hours per day, Tammie, Darin and Jesse clean the entire building including all the animal kennels.

“They do all the cleaning after hours,” said Dr. Kristi Frost. “They do a good job.”

Dr. Frost, the founder of the Byron Pet Clinic, knows the importance of hiring people with disabilities. Her brother Bob was a participant in PossAbilities Employment and Seniors Program from 1980 until he passed away in 2008.

“He was in the program for a long time,” said Dr. Frost. “He wasn’t able enough to work, but they got him out in the community once and a while.”

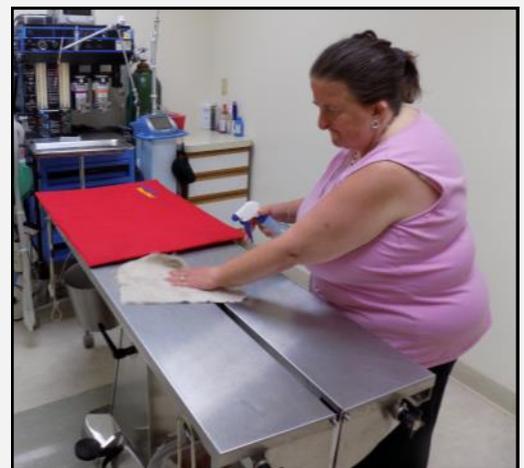
PossAbilities person-centered approach has always been something Dr. Frost admires. Therefore, when the Pet Clinic needed some janitorial work done throughout the week, she knew she had to reach out to PossAbilities.

“I was finally at the point in my business to give back,” said Dr. Frost “That’s what made me get involved the way we did.”

Her personal connection with PossAbilities has now turned into a long standing business partnership. The participants love working at the clinic and enjoy being apart of the Pet Clinic team.



Pictures of Bob Frost when he was at PossAbilities



PossAbilities is a private, nonprofit 501(c)(3) corporation committed to serving children and adults with disabilities through individualized, community based programs. We help people find and keep jobs, become engaged members of the community, contribute through volunteerism, and experience integrated social and recreational opportunities.

“I’ve Grown Up”

Adulthood hasn’t been an easy road for Nick and he will be the first to admit it.

“I’ve come a longer way than I thought I’d come before,” said Nick.

Nick started at PossAbilities in 2009 in the School to Work program. The program allowed Nick to explore a variety of skills at different businesses throughout Rochester. After three years of learning new skills, Nick was hired part-time at a local retail store.

“My first job was at Dress Barn,” said Nick. “I would take the plastic off of women’s clothing and hang the clothes.”

It was a great learning experience for Nick but it wasn’t the right fit. After five years at the store, he applied for a new opportunity at Kmart and landed the job quickly following a personal interview.

“It was different,” said Nick.

A different experience which has changed Nick’s life tremendously.

“Nick has grown a lot in this last year,” said Kim Kraus, PossAbilities Employment Consultant.

“I used to have lots of issues riding the bus. I wouldn’t work a day without being scheduled,” said Nick. “Now I like working a lot more. I ride the bus.”

Nick’s parents have noticed the positive changes as well and credit PossAbilities staff members for challenging their son to do better with realistic expectations.

“Nick has become more responsible, more flexible, more dedicated with more of a work ethic,” said Doug and Cindy. “We believe part of this is due to the staff he has worked with. They have helped him grow as an individual and as an employee.”

Today, Nick is working close to 20 hours a week at Kmart unloading products from trucks, stocking shelves and updating the stores sales items using a computer software system. In addition, Nick attends PossAbilities Program without Walls one day a week.

“The availability of PWOW to add structure to Nick’s life is part of the reason he is successful at this job,” said Doug and Cindy. “Being a part of something bigger than yourself is a good thing—sense of belongingness.”

Nick is now an active member of society.

“I have grown up,” said Nick.

He enjoys working, volunteering and spending his hard earned cash on his favorite hobbies.

“I like to play on PlayStation 4 or Switcher,” said Nick. “I like Dragon because they breath fire and stuff.”

Plus, he has high hopes for the future.

“I’m willing to try cashiering,” said Nick. “I want to take a vacation to Florida.”

PossAbilities staff members are excited for what lies ahead for Nick and they will continue to provide the person-centered support he needs to reach his goals and dreams.



Thank-You!



Thank-you MN 97.5 for selecting PossAbilities as the 80's Friday Night charity of the month!



Thank-you Rochester Orcas Swim Club for donating 1,000 Swim passes to Soldiers Field Pool for our Youth Rec program.

Garden Dedication

We are so excited to have a patio area for our Life Enrichment participants in honor of Thelma Llyod. Linda Llyod is currently a participant in the Life Enrichment II program and the Llyods have been great supporters of PossAbilities.



Thank-you Rochester Ready Mix Concrete for donating the cement for the patio!

What else have we been up to?



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