



Les's Story

Les is a young man eager to move from his parents' home and into his own apartment or house. He has a strong family support that encourages his independence and is certain that he will succeed. They all describe him as a happy and self-determined individual.

Les graduated from high school in May 2007 with a certificate in Hotel and Tourism. He began his working career at Vocational Rehabilitation in order to develop the necessary skills in securing future employment and has received many awards for his hard work and perfect attendance. His family offers supports by taking turns driving him to work each day. Although he enjoys what he is doing and has made many friends, Les desires to gain employment in the community, possibly cooking pizzas. In preparation for his quest to work in the food industry and living independently, his aunt is giving him cooking lessons.

Les is also very active in the community and a strong athlete. He is a member of a local bowling league, enjoys playing basketball, shooting pool, and playing baseball. He also ran cross country and track while in high school. In addition, he likes playing his keyboard, and attends church regularly.

After developing a PATH plan for Les with the assistance from the Supported Community Initiative at the Center for Disability Resources, Les and his family set out to complete the monthly tasks established in the initial circle of support meeting. Along with continuing his activities in the community, he desired to live in a home with two bedrooms and two bathrooms where he can have a pet Chihuahua and space for his pool table. At the end of the initial meeting, Mr. Coy, Les's father, appeared stunned at the many possibilities and resources available to accomplish Les's goal. He responded, "I didn't know where to begin, but sitting down and creating a plan step-by-step really helped me realize this can happen for Les."

After much hard work and determination, Les and his brother, who are a year apart, have just moved into their own home. Les's home, located in West Columbia, contains three bedrooms and was recently turned into a two full bathroom home with the help of Les's father and many family and friends. Les and his brother have their own bedroom, as well as, a game room which holds Les's pool table for his leisure. Les has recently secured a job working at McDonald's in which he thoroughly enjoys. With Les's great social network, the commitment of his family, and his self-advocacy, it is foreseen that he will continue to be triumphant!