

# Mission Moments

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Edition 42, July 2019

## Work Hard, Play Hard

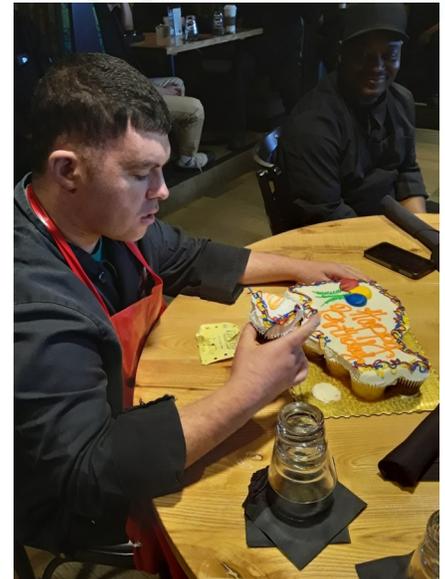
One of the most joyful aspects of family is celebrating one another's successes, and Andrew's family has had the opportunity to do just that in the past year. In September of 2018, Andrew landed a job as a dishwasher at Market District in Carmel, and he has been thriving there ever since. However, this job came after a long and challenging search.

Andrew struggles with auditory processing and language issues that make it hard to find a job and, unfortunately, an employer who is willing to support him at work. Andrew had worked with job coaches and vocational rehabilitation services before, but had not found success in a steady job until he connected with Tangram.

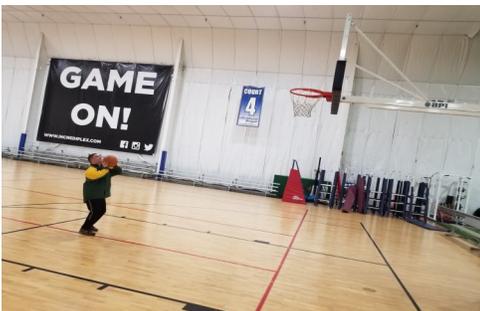
In May of 2018, Andrew started working with Curt, an Employment Consultant at Tangram. Together, they began the process of finding the right employment fit for Andrew by researching opportunities that matched both his practical needs and his personality. Ultimately, they decided that Market District would be a good fit all the way around, as the company has a naturally supportive culture.

That proved true for Andrew, and everyone quickly realized he had found his niche there. These days, Andrew even asks for extra hours because he loves his work at Market District so much!

In addition to the sense of purpose this job gives Andrew, it also provides him with more freedom. Now that he has a steady income, Andrew is able to do more of the things he loves outside of work. Often, Daniel, his Tangram Community Resource Coordinator, gets to join in the fun. Daniel and Andrew can regularly be found grabbing a bite at Culver's, enjoying the latest thriller at the movie theater, hiking around the Fishers area, playing at the local recreation center, and hanging out at the Castleton Mall. Andrew is a big gamer and enjoys splurging on a new game every once and a while - but only sometimes, as he's also a responsible saver of his hard-earned income. Andrew is excited about being involved in Tangram's Social and Outdoor Recreation clubs, as well.



Andrew's coworkers at Market District recently celebrated him with a birthday treat!



Basketball is one of Andrew's favorites!

Andrew knows how to work hard and play hard - and he knows the value of family, too. The Ripp family is active in Special

Olympics, where Andrew currently plays on a softball team that his dad coaches. His mom washes the team's uniforms, and his brothers even get involved when they're in town - it's a whole family affair!

Andrew's mom said their family "attributes Andrew's success to Curt," because his assistance in the job search led to so much opportunity for Andrew—he's even considering getting a place of his own now! With a steady job and strong support system, Andrew has endless possibilities ahead of him.

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