

Mission Moments

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The Dream of Home Ownership Becomes Reality for Shawn

Shawn, like most people, doesn't like to be told he can't do something. He had plans for his life, a vision for the future, and nothing was going to stop him. "My first dream was to get out of the [sheltered] workshop and work for the Arc. Where I was, they didn't allow clients to do that," he recalled. His other dream was to become a homeowner.

When Shawn was being served by another disability services organization, he was used to being told that he should change his expectations for his future. But Shawn knew that his dreams were within reach, especially if he could find the right support system.

Shawn started by leaving the agency he was with and moving to Indianapolis. He got a job with the Arc of Indiana, where he is the President of Self-Advocates of Indiana and the Education and Training Coordinator. With his career dreams well underway, he started services with Tangram, which would prove to be a key player in the pursuit of his next dream.

In his meetings with his support team, Shawn shared that he would like to buy a house. Hilton Turner, a Tangram program manager, worked closely with Shawn to make that happen. "I took him to view properties and helped him understand some of the basics of the home-buying process. I looked out for some of the pros and cons of each property and provided support and encouragement. But he also had a great realtor. His realtor actually paid the earnest money for him," explained Hilton.

Though it is a seller's market, Shawn never got discouraged, and his perseverance paid off. In early March, he closed on his first home, a two bedroom, one bath home that he loves. "I just made it happen," said Shawn. Congratulations on becoming a homeowner, Shawn!

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Shawn, a proud new homeowner, stands in front of his home.