



MISSION MOMENTS

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When Joe Met Joe...

Joe H. and Joe L. are good friends. They met when Joe H. decided to research volunteer opportunities and found Tangram. Volunteering to build a friendship with someone appealed to Joe, and after going through the volunteer training, he was matched with Joe L., a young man in his 20s.

When asked why he volunteers, Joe H. responded, "I'm a very blessed person in many ways. I look for ways to give back to the community and people, although it doesn't seem like that with Joe, since it's like hanging out with any other friend."

Joe and Joe have been friends for about 7 months and during that time have made plans to do something fun about once or twice per month. They have been to an Indians game, the zoo, the State Fair, and enjoy watching sports, both live and on television. Both are avid sports fans. "I might bring up the (Indy) 500. We both want to go this year," said Joe L. as he speculated about possible activities for the warmer months.

When asked what he likes best about Joe H., Joe L. replied, "My favorite thing is doing stuff with him. The only thing I don't like about him is that he likes the Dallas Cowboys."

"It's a blast. We enjoy a lot of the same activities and I truly enjoy hanging out with him. I also include my family in the activities, which is great for both of us," stated Joe H.

"His girlfriend is cool," said Joe L.

They celebrated Joe L.'s birthday in December with lunch at his favorite restaurant, Steak 'N' Shake, and bowling, another favorite of Joe's.

The benefits of this friendship extend far beyond these fun experiences. "Joe (L.) seems to be much more confident, especially in social situations. He always seems to have a great time, and his life seems to be going really well. He's definitely more open to joking, sarcasm, etc... Learning that spending time with someone who has developmental disabilities isn't really volunteering at all—that has been huge for me," explained Joe H.

The friends look forward to spending more time together. "We're either going to the Children's Museum or bowling," Joe L. said of their plans for January. "I love bowling."

Friendships like this are possible thanks to Tangram's wonderful volunteers and our generous supporters.

