



MISSION MOMENTS

...made possible by YOU!

Charlie's Voice

Have you ever joined a committee or club because you believed in the cause and were passionate about creating change in your community? If so, then you have something in common with Charlie.

Charlie is a firm believer in using his voice to protect the rights of individuals with disabilities. He serves as co-Treasurer with Tangram's Self-Advocates group and, until recently, Charlie had served for many years on a Human Rights Committee for the organization where he attends day services. The organization switched the meeting day and he was no longer able to attend.

As he was being interviewed for this story, Charlie's face lit up with an idea, "Hey, does Tangram have a Human Rights Committee? Because I'd like to join if they do." The old saying about a window opening when a door closes turned out to be true for Charlie. As it happens, Tangram's Human Rights Committee had a vacancy and was delighted to hear about Charlie's interest in joining. He plans to attend the next meeting and learn more about how he can serve.



Charlie meets Governor Holcomb at the Statehouse

Charlie knows how effective individual voices can be in advocating for important issues. In February, he was part of a group of self-advocates who handed out valentines to legislators at the Statehouse. The valentines read "DSPs: The Heart of It All" and were in support of increased wages for direct support professionals. These efforts resulted in a State budget that included a 5% increase of Medicaid Waiver rates to help improve the wages paid to direct support professionals.

"I like to learn to advocate for people who can't and also like to advocate for myself. It teaches me to be a good advocate for me and for others who can't," Charlie explained when asked why he has volunteered his time as a self-advocate and a human rights committee member over the years. "I like to help out other people, not just myself."

[Like Charlie, you can effect change in your community by donating to Tangram at www.TheTangramWay.org/donate](http://www.TheTangramWay.org/donate)



Follow-Up: Beverly Gets a Job!

Remember Beverly? She was the subject of our [March/April 2016 Mission Moment](#), which highlighted her work as a longtime volunteer with Salvation Army. Though she loves volunteering, Beverly has always wanted to find a paid job. In May, Beverly's dream came true. After working with Tangram's employment services, she was offered a job as a greeter at the Stone's Crossing Goodwill store. She loves her job and has never missed a day of work! Keep up the good work, Beverly!