

# Mission Moments

*Made Possible By YOU!*

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## Derek's Window of Opportunity

Alexander Graham Bell once said, "When one door closes, a window opens." This is what happened for Derek. When Kim, a Tangram Program Manager, met Derek, she learned that he used to have a job taking tickets at a movie theatre, which he had enjoyed.

Knowing that he had been without a job for awhile, Kim approached Derek to see if he would like to volunteer. Kim's daughter had recently completed training to become a volunteer at the Indianapolis Zoo and she was struck by inspiration. "I thought, maybe Derek could volunteer at the zoo, too!" she remembered.

With that thought, a new window opened for Derek. When he lost his job at the movie theatre, it felt like a door had closed and that he lost his purpose. But Kim recognized another opportunity for Derek to stay active and connect to his community—through volunteering.

Derek spends an hour and a half at the zoo each week, where he provides re-entry hand stamps to the visitors who leave the zoo to eat in the picnic area.

"Derek is really excited because he gets free zoo passes, but he is also very proud. He told me he couldn't wait for his brother to get back from Japan so he could tell him about his new role as a volunteer," said Kim.

Kim and Tangram staff member completed volunteer orientation with Derek so they would be able to support him while he volunteers. "He loves it. He is just so happy!" said Kim.

We know Derek's summer will be full of adventures and the joy of volunteering!

**Do you love our Mission Moments? Did you know that your financial support makes it possible for Tangram to create moments like this one in the lives of those we serve? [Make a donation today!](#) Who knows? Maybe your gift will open a window for someone who thought their door was closed!**



Derek on his first day as an Indianapolis Zoo volunteer!