

Mission Moments

Made Possible By YOU!

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Speak Up! The Power of Self-Advocacy and Customized Supports

Tangram believes that individuals have a right to make choices about their own life and that people can flourish when they receive support services tailored to their individual needs. This month, we share two stories about self-advocates who are thriving in their own lives and help others to do the same.

ANTHONY

Some of Anthony's experiences with service providers, prior to coming to Tangram, left a bad taste in his mouth. He didn't want history to repeat itself, so, when he came to Tangram, he voiced his concerns, making sure that he would be receiving services that would support his individual needs and goals.

Tangram listened to Anthony's vision for services and worked to develop the community program, which empowers clients to connect with the community and others through social and group activities, and also offers more customized supports to those for whom achieving complete independence is the ultimate goal.

This program has been a great fit for Anthony and many other Tangram clients. Anthony's long-term goal is to be independent and not need any support services. He already pays rent, does his own chores, pays his phone bill, and does his grocery shopping—and that's just the beginning. The community program has given him the support and tools necessary to achieve other milestones.



Anthony is pictured at his job (above).

Since he started with the community team, Anthony has gotten his driver's permit, obtained a better job with more hours, begun saving money for a car, started using Yellow Cab to get to work, developed a consistent schedule, worked with the community team to implement some of his group activity ideas, and begun discussing housing options with his support team. Anthony is now closer than ever to his ultimate goal!

Anthony knows the value of individualized services and continues to advocate for himself and others. He loves to brainstorm ways to help others and is creative when it comes to planning group activities. Tangram is proud to know Anthony and is grateful that he identified an opportunity for us to improve our services.

READ ANOTHER STORY ON PAGE 2>>>

ANDREW

Andrew came to Tangram from another service provider in February 2017. Andrew lived in an apartment with a roommate during his first year with Tangram. Shortly after starting with Tangram, he started going to day services four days each week and joined Tangram's Self-Advocates. In January of this year, he moved into a house with two housemates and his mom reports that he is happier than ever!

In March of this year, Tangram received a wonderful letter from a family friend of Andrew's, which speaks to the transformation that Andrew has undergone in just one year with Tangram.

Here is an excerpt from this letter:

"Hello to the caregivers of Andrew! ...Not being a family member, I want you to know the difference that is so apparent in this young man, which can only be a result of the care he is receiving through you. He is much more social, positive, and interactive...It is an amazing transformation!...Thank you for your consistent, positive, and supportive care that is making such a difference in this young man's life."

Andrew is already doing amazing things and we know he will continue to grow and thrive. Tangram is committed to achieving outcomes like this for all of the people we serve and their families. We know that the right supports are essential to creating extraordinary lives for individuals with disabilities and thank our clients for trusting us to deliver excellence.

Mission Moments are made possible by our supporters! [Donate today](#) and help us make more moments like these for individuals with disabilities! We appreciate your support!