

11-20-15

To: Employment First stakeholders

From: Mike Maley, Statewide Employment First Coordinator

Re: Employment First: Jason's Success Story

(Please forward to your local partners & stakeholders)

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Today I am pleased to present you with our first [video success story](#) produced by the DHS Employment First team. I want to encourage our stakeholders and partners around the state to share this video through your networks. I especially would like families and guardians of those who experience intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) to see this video.

The video portrays Marilyn, a mother of seven children from Eugene, and her son Jason, who experiences cerebral palsy. Jason has worked for nine years delivering food to mall employees at Valley River Center. Marilyn has another adult child, Rachel, who also experiences significant disabilities. Rachel and Jason both work successfully in community jobs with support from [Alternative Work Concepts](#), a nonprofit employment agency for people with significant multiple disabilities – physical as well as cognitive.

This video is focused on Marilyn, a parent who believes strongly that her children should be fully integrated into community life. Again, the video is at:

<https://youtu.be/znSUQCzEG0Q>

We will have a second video later that shows more detail on the supports that help Jason to be successful in his community job. Our plan is to expand the use of video storytelling as another way to share opportunities and successes happening around the state.

Thank you all for your continued involvement, support, and advocacy for services to individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities in Oregon. If you have comments or other questions, please email them to employment.first@state.or.us.

~ Mike