



## Shared Support Maryland, Inc.!

### Impact Story # 1:

One young artist is able to arrange his support around the daily schedule he wants ~ rather than meeting a set arrangement of confines that don't match his needs but do match program s needs ~ because of this he is able to continue attend art classes that he's been going to for years, has had several solo shows, published a book and is working on his next one ~ a children's book!

### Impact Story #2:

Because another woman lives on her own with the support she organizes and directs ~ she has the motivation to work toward self sufficiency and helps others by advocating for the things that she knows work for people with physical access needs. She regularly works with her local county commission to obtain curb cuts, ramp in her neighborhood and home renovations to make her community and home accessible.

Impact Story #3: We are honored to support this older gentleman, who lives in Baltimore City. Key ~ is that he no longer goes to a traditional day program and he is able to hire his best matched staff rather than having one assigned ~ who also speaks Farsi and knows him very well. He and his family are entrepreneurs, managing several shops throughout the city. He loves being able to visit the shops, the local patrons, and the nearby restaurants with his brothers working as his employees. It helps him feel connected to his community and his family.

Impact Story #4: Supporting people with sincere passions for things is incredible ~ it's our drive. We work for a young woman who left traditional day program services over the last year and the love of her life is music. She has very specific requirements regarding her supports as well as her interests, so naturally she worried about finding the right employee. We screened several people before her current employee was referred to us, and it seemed too good to be true. Not only was her background excellent, she had also grown up nearby and was involved in the local music scene. She was hired on the spot, and they have been crafting, cooking, and singing together non-stop since then.

Impact Story #5: SSMD is just getting to know one young man who, previously, lived in a residential home with no choice of staff or the place he lives ~ and unfortunately, with little daily contact with his family. He and his family decided living at home with the support he wants and needs was the best scenario for him! This young man is now able to live in the neighborhood with which he is familiar, be a part of his community and with his family who fully support his desire to live as autonomously as possible.

Impact Story #6: Two years ago we were introduced to a young lady only 8 years old. She is one of four daughters - three have a disability and one is going through the

challenges of being a teenager. The parents had their children on the waiting list for developmental disability services in Maryland and tried other programs but their experiences were less than favorable. The mother told Shared Support Maryland, Inc. of stories about people coming in and sitting on the sofa not attending to the children being supported. The parents never felt comfortable leaving their children alone with the caregivers. When the moment came that the child was no longer on the waiting list and had been authorized to receive services, she tried traditionally run services ~ where funding is sent to the provider and then services are controlled and delivered from there ~ but learned about self-directed services and chose this route. The family was able to choose employees who the child liked and the family trusted. Since the child has been receiving self-directed services, she has had two dedicated employees who are earning a living wage ~ also typically a plus and benefit of this service is that employees earn living wages. As a result, the parents are able to work with confidence that their loved one is being well taken care of. This fall, they were finally able to take a needed vacation - just the two of them.

Impact Story #7: As it may seem ~ so much of our support is really getting out of the way ~ because when we presume confidence we really believe that people can do things for themselves. We determine together with the person ~ what they want in the way of support and go from there. It is one of the larger differences in service provision at Shared Support Maryland, Inc.

Two people that we have the absolute honor to support were done waiting... one woman, waited for over a year while her employment services provider spent less than 1 hour per week helping her look for a job online. We helped her with simple contacts, tips on making personal and face to face connections with employers ~ out she went to land a job on her own! Celebrating 9 months and 2 raises since!! She works at one of our celebrated businesses today!!

#### Impact Story #8

Shared Support Maryland, Inc. is working for a young woman, helping her hire a job coach to help her pursue a job of her choice.

This young lady is vibrant, energetic, and full of great entrepreneurial ideas which she will be able to share with her community once she secures support and a job.

The difference? A job coach that she chooses that will work on the schedule that she sets ~ jobs happen all around the clock not just 9 - 5. Just wait for her business to start! You will hear all about it.

Impact Story # 9: Often SSMD gets a "last resort" call from people, families or service coordinators when someone is unable to secure a provider of services. While we wait to be the first call for everyone ~ we will continue to revel in the incredible people we meet because of this "last resort" phenomenon.

One year ago, we got one of those calls. This young man was waiting for months for agencies to "accept" him for services after he graduated (June 2016). We were told up front that the family needed support and were asked would that be a barrier ~ we said "no". We were told he had "behaviors", we didn't care... We were sent the "referral

packet" ~ we said we didn't want to read it until we met and had the young man and his family's permission ~ based on the upfront warnings we were sure the information wasn't useful. There wasn't anything that could be said that changed our minds about meeting. Then, we met and immediately connected.

Long story short 😊;) ~ he has hired 3 employees (2 regular and one back up) that are the perfect match. When his Support Broker could not make the interviews, the parents said that it was ok ~ they were excited and it gave them an opportunity to do something like this on their own! His father said he loved putting his old hat back on and conducting the interviews with the young man and his mother. And they did it, and they did it better than most trained to do it and what a group they chose!!!!

Because this young man's employees were hired based primarily on their character as well as interest versus other elements seemingly important (here's a difference!) ~ he and his employees are super productive. He loves to take apart and rebuild computers ~ who knew the gentleman he hired did too! The woman he hired goes to Montgomery County Community College and will be connecting him right away to help him enroll in classes and get the support needed to make it through school. Together, we brainstormed so many volunteer opportunities, work opportunities and ways to make it all work.

Everything was based on what we knew he loved or was able to do well. As we went along ~ we cleared everything with him ~ to everything he was excited and said "yes"! Onward this team is going ~ no more waiting ~ success is already in the wings for this man!

Impact Story #10: This woman we are so honored to support is quite a social butterfly. She goes to dances, volunteers consistently at Meals on Wheels, and just returned from a Disney World vacation. Self-directed services and the support of her support broker, support staff and family will work together to support her to start planning to launch a dog walking service in the coming year. She lives in Baltimore County ~ get ready to take advantage of this service in your area!!!