

# Supported Employment

AUGUST 2010



## A Milestone for Seneca

Ten years ago, this July, Seneca Henhawk began his employment at Food Basics, King George Road location in Brantford. Seneca began his job at Food Basics as a

co-op student through Tollgate Technological Skills Centre and after graduation from high school he approached the manager of the store for an employment opportunity. Seneca had proven his skills and work ethic as a student and was offered a position working in the dairy department. Seneca takes a lot of pride in the work that he does every Friday and Saturday and says the dairy department just doesn't look the same when he's not there. Seneca's favourite job in the dairy department is stocking the milk fridges, this job requires him to check the expiry dates, rotate the stock and assist the customers. Another favourite part

of Seneca's job is to have a coffee break with his co-workers. Bill Balazs, the owner of Food Basics, says that Seneca has had a positive influence on his co-workers, and he's seen many come and go. Having Seneca on staff not only provides him with an extremely reliable employee with a strong work ethic, it has also created awareness and an acceptance of differences among the staff. Bill says he wishes more of his employees were like Seneca, he truly enjoys his work and wants to be there, he has a great work ethic.

Working at Food Basics, Seneca has also established a consistent presence with other local establishments in the strip mall. He is a regular at, The Beat Goes On, where he spends much of his paycheque on one of his passions, music. Seneca is also well known at the Little Caesars in the plaza, where he often buys his lunch while at work.

Seneca has made a lot of friends over the years while working at Food Basics and has seen many co-workers come and go. Recently, Seneca celebrated his thirtieth birthday and the store had a small celebration to help mark this milestone in Seneca's life.



## A Strong Employee

Arlene started at the Dunn ten years ago as a receptionist working 18-20 hours a

week and is always a happy face to greet everyone entering the building. Her duties include answering the phone, paging and voice mail, time sheets, pay stubs, and photocopy machine loading. In Jan. 2001 Arlene also added another position to her week. She began working at Contact Brant as a part-time general office assistant for 5 hours a week. Routinely Arlene organizes the administration offices and reception area and waters plants.

Arlene successfully found competitive employment with assistance from the

Supported Employment Program and has been an employee with Paulmac's pet store since Jan. 2009. When she first attained this opportunity she was given 2.5 hours a week and already has seen her hours double. Arlene states she is organized, clean, and friendly and is reported to be doing an excellent job. This employment opportunity gives her a sense of accomplishment, great pride and much joy. Congratulations Arlene! Arlene is involved with Special Olympics, trains 3 days week at Body Line is coached by Doug Vale lifting weights up to 275lb and focusing on her dream to make it to the Canadian team for the next Olympics. Many other personal interests include her love of knitting, horseback riding and her pets at home where she has lived with her partner, Gerald, for over ten years. Arlene enjoys

email, games on her computer, one of her favorites being neo-pets! She is an avid WWE wrestling fan, enjoys family and her biggest dream right now is to swim with dolphins. Singing to country tunes at home is a favorite pastime. Arlene contributes her success and accomplishments to the support she has had in her life, through her friends, family and support staff at Community Living Brant, in particular Janet Chatterson, her supervisor at the Dunn, whom Arlene considers a mentor and motivator to her. Keep up the good work Arlene!

Carrie McChesney  
Career Development Practitioner  
student: Conestoga College



## Employment Success

If you shop at Sobey's, you are sure to see a warm, friendly

smile in the aisles. Donny has been working at Sobey's since February 2010 cleaning the store's shelving units, mopping the floors and helping coworkers in the back of the store unloading products from shipments. Donny is a very diligent worker; he stays focused on the tasks he is given, he is polite, punctual, respectful, helpful and exceeds the

expectations of his supervisors. All of these qualities and more translate to Donny's incredible work ethic and how he takes pride in his job. Donny is always eager to help customers and coworkers while at work, and he says he feels very welcome and has a wonderful sense of belonging. The button up shirt and nametag are also a perk for Donny, as he enjoys wearing his Sobey's work uniform.

When Donny isn't busy working, he enjoys going to the movies, hanging out with friends, playing sports and playing video games. Donny received bus training through the Supported Employment Program, which he says

gives him a great feeling of independence and freedom to travel to work by himself, and to meet up with his friends. Donny also loves to sing! He has performed in three talent shows at his school, Tollgate Technological Skills Centre. He is currently practicing for the "Brantford Idol" competition November 7<sup>th</sup>, 2010. In the future, Donny would love to work for the city of Brantford, doing landscaping or maintenance and feels that the experience he is getting at Sobey's will help him work towards this goal. Keep up the awesome work, Donny!

Melissa DeJong  
Social Service Worker student:  
Mohawk College

**Mission Statement: Linking diverse potential and passion with community employment opportunities and partnerships.**

**Philosophy: Everyone has an ability to do something, there is no such thing as disability only ability!**



## Busy with Life

Nathan is eighteen years old and is very happy working at Harvey's on King

George Road in Brantford. He has many duties to accomplish during his shift, mopping, cleaning tables, checking the washrooms, garbage, and thoroughly enjoys the interaction with the staff and customers. Nathan spends a lot of time training for track and field events. Last July he won two bronze medals, one for shot putt and the other for the 400meter race. His goal for 2012 is to run a half

marathon, perhaps as a fundraiser with people to cheer him on. Nathan's favorite motivational sports song is "Chase Your Dreams".

Nathan readily admits his best girl is his mom but he adores his puppy Lily, a calm and cuddly friend. He is an enthusiastic learner, his favourite subject is math and he reads Christian books every day. In his spare time Nathan plays Wii fit and swims with his friends, travels with his dad to Formula One races and is soon off on a Caribbean cruise with his family. He also likes to play guitar and listen to music. Nathan volunteers at Tranquility Place on Sundays and does the service offering. The approaching hockey

season will see Nathan with another job; he will be the stick boy for the Brantford Blast, doing both home and away games. Already a Toronto Maple Leaf fan, Nathan is sure to enjoy his experience with the Blast. Nathan's goal in life is to be a pastor. He is very keen on life and is filled with joy and this goal would suit him perfectly.

Keep smiling Nathan! You have much life and adventure ahead of you!

Carrie McChesney  
Career Development Practitioner  
student: Conestoga College