

# HOW MY LIFE HAS CHANGED

By Scott Masson

It's interesting how life can throw you a curveball sometimes ... or bring new adventures that can help you achieve more. Sometimes life can be up and down like a roller coaster; you can have one phenomenal job one moment and the next moment something bigger gets offered. Being at Favarh is like reading a new chapter in a book with different endings; you read one chapter and it's a surprise.

I worked at Michael's Arts and Crafts in Avon for two grateful years, learning about the store with three other Favarh clients and a job coach, Raimonda Beshi, who made me an even better worker. I got to be friends with the associates and managers at Michael's and still am to this day. I quickly memorized where items go in the store and how to use equipment to scan items and find their location throughout the store. My co-worker, Lauren Traceski, was also instrumental in guiding me.

Working at Michaels made me realize that my Favarh co-workers as well as all the Michael's associates and managers are like a second family being away from my real family. I couldn't be more happy working there and being part of the great team. Working there I used physical skills and mental skills. I loved every part of working there with all my friends from Favarh and Michael's. They will always be in my heart and my second family.

But life threw a knuckleball at me as a new job opportunity opened up, a job at Economy Spring in Southington. The Favarh managers selected me to work there and try it out, so my time at Michael's came to an end after two wonderful years. Four Favarh clients, including me, plus three managers went through the walk-thru at Economy Spring to basically introduce us to our new jobsite, The three staff members were Kelly Dunn and Kelly Engel, and Amy Rocco, all who helped us not be nervous and scared at the new challenge.

I've been working at Economy since the beginning of July now and I love working and growing there. I have met a lot new people who work alongside us there. We started with a 30-workday trial period to see if we liked it there and whether they liked us. The answer was yes to both questions and now we are there permanently. I have friends at Economy Spring they are my buddies. Our Favarh team test different kinds of springs for the factory. I want to personally thank everyone at Favarh who chose me to work there. I'm loving working at Economy Spring.

Life has given me two more great changes that have given me more happiness. I am now eating healthier, which means more fruit at lunch and no junk food. I'm also a self-advocate at Favarh, trying to make a difference in the world. I am so grateful for all these fantastic changes in my life. Finally, I also want to thank Raimonda, my wonderful job coach with whom I worked with at Michael's, who is always there for me.