

Know Me

NAME *Susie Shoffner*

PASSION *Ghost Adventures
TV Show*

My Story

Hi! My name is Susie and I am 47 years old. I used to be scared of a lot of things and didn't leave my apartment very much. But when my caregiver passed away two years ago, I had to learn to be brave.

When I started working with Stark DD two years ago I didn't know how to do much for myself. I had a team of people, like my Service and Support Administrator (SSA) and staff from a provider agency helping me learn how to do things. I went from them helping me learn how to lock the apartment door, to now being almost fully independent.

I have faced a lot of my fears. I was scared to start going to a day program, but with people encouraging me, I quickly started going five days per week. I am friends with everyone there. I was scared to live alone after my caregiver passed away. I was scared to ride SARTA, but now I ride it to and from work all by myself. I also take the bus to the store by myself.



I've never had a job before, so I was scared to work in the community. But, in June 2019, with the help of Stark DD and my team, I got a job at **We're Rolling Pretzel Company**.

My dream is to go to Las Vegas to meet Zak Bagans of the television show Ghost Adventures!

According to her team, Stark DD gave Susie the opportunities to broaden her experiences in life. Before getting set up with a waiver, she hardly ever left her apartment. In the beginning, the waiver helped pay for the staff who helped her at home to learn basic life skills. Now, having faced her fears, the waiver funding helps pay for on-the-job coaching, her SARTA rides, and her day program expenses when she's not working. She now has a job, friends, a social life, and looks forward to new experiences every day.



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**Stark County Board of
Developmental Disabilities**

Supporting People with Disabilities & Their Families