

Know Me



NAME

Mark

PASSION

Shopping

My Story

Hi. I'm Mark and I am 56 years old. I grew up in Canton South and graduated from Canton South High. I am proud of my heritage and for years have wanted to find out more about my family history. I was adopted and grew up with other adopted siblings. My lifelong passion is to find my biological family. I have been using Ancestry.com to locate my biological family members, but I have not had much success. Since I have no family in town, I have made a family from all the people who help me at home and at work.

Thanks to a Medicaid waiver funded by local and federal dollars, Mark is able to live in an apartment in the community. Ravon Wise, an independent Homemaker Personal Care (HPC) provider, not only helps Mark with daily living tasks, but she also makes sure that Mark lives a healthy and comfortably life. She has become part of his everyday life because she effectively communicates with Mark and gained his trust.

Ravon makes suggestions of activities to make sure his daily living is livelier. Mark loves shopping, going to dinner and the movies. Ravon makes sure it happens. She also reminds him to eat healthy and takes him for long walks in large stores, malls, Monument Park and water parks for exercise.

cont.



I love shopping and exercising at the mall. I go to church and make friends. I like moving around, especially traveling out of state. I have been to St. Louis, Missouri couple of years ago and I want to go Florida sometime, to walk on the beach, shop, eat out and have a good time. I also like to play the lottery and I am lucky; I have won many times.

I love sports and am a huge fan of the Cleveland Browns, Cleveland Cavaliers, Canton Charge and Cleveland Indians. I participated in Special Olympic and was part of basketball, baseball, football, softball, and track and field teams.

Once the governor issued the Stay-at-Home order in March, **SafeInHome**, a remote monitoring service installed in Mark's apartment, provided backup service and fill the time gaps in case Raven or another provider was not available.

After I graduated from high school, I worked at Stark DD's Whipple-Dale and Lester Higgins Adult Day Programs. In 2001, I got a job at Solmet Technologies Inc., located in south Canton.

"Mark started working at Solmet as part of the cleaning crew. He is responsible and reliable on the job. Going to work in the morning is big deal to him. He is an easy going guy who makes friends on the job as well," said Shu Lin, Stark DD Service and Support Administrator (SSA). "Mark wouldn't be so successful without his team on the job. They take care of him as one of their own. They care for his safety as much as his happiness on the job. Mark has been invited to manager's home for dinners during thanksgiving and Christmas for over 10 years. Every year he gets a lot of Christmas gifts, gift cards and lotteries from his coworkers – they do spoil him. Debbie at Solmet has looked after him for years, and communicates with him often to make sure he is doing well. Mark loves them."

cont.

Mark and Ravon



Since the pandemic I have been home and not working. I have learned how to use Zoom and took daily classes offered by Siffrin, my community provider. Now I am going back to work a few hours per week.

“Mark has always wanted to return to work. Debbie made sure that he returned to a safe work place with arranged hours. His job coach, Joe from Family Disability Service, is following along at the beginning to make sure that he washes hands thoroughly, wears a mask correctly, practices proper social distancing and following company’s safety guidelines,” said Shu Lin.

Mark may have no close relative in town, but in his team he has found family to give him a sense of security. Mark’s team includes: the people at work, especially Debbie; job coach, Joe; transportation provider Dean; his Siffrin Payee Andrea and Cheryl who help him pay bills; HPC provider Ravon; and SSA Shu. Together, like family, they are taking care of their own and making sure that Mark lives a quality life under waiver system managed by Stark DD.



Know Stark DD



**Stark County Board of
Developmental Disabilities**

Supporting People with Disabilities & Their Families