

HELP FOR GOOD

Corey



Stark County
Board of
Developmental
Disabilities



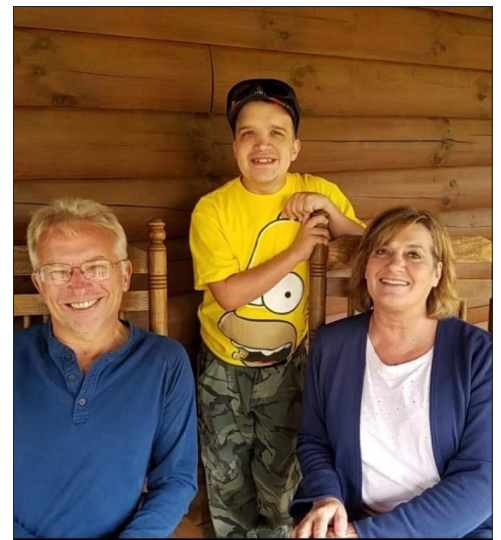
Corey

Meet Corey Bennethum. He is 30 years old and has received services from Stark DD for many years. Corey graduated from Rebecca Stallman Southgate School and lives with his mom and dad, Beth and Charlie.

Corey loves helping people. He has a passion for safety and keeping people safe. He is certified in CPR for adults and children, and first aid care. He also is part of the Safety Committee for the Stark County Board of Developmental Disabilities. He helps the committee think about safety problems from his point of view and he makes suggestions to keep people with disabilities safe. Corey is also a certified Storm Watcher. When bad weather or national news events are happening, he will send out emails to people to make sure they are aware of the dangers.

Corey volunteers in a lot of places in our community. In 2014 he started volunteering in the office of Massillon Mayor Kathy Catazaro Perry. Shortly after that in 2015 he added volunteer hours at the Massillon Police Department. Corey continued both of these until the COVID pandemic and had to stay home. Corey also loves helping at church, the Living Water Church in Dalton. He has been a youth volunteer since 2015.

Since graduating high school Corey has tried out many jobs in the community to see what he likes to do. From caring for dogs to answering phones at his day program, Corey like to work in an environment where he helps people. For the past eight years Corey has worked at Wendy's in Dalton. "I work two days per week. Normally I do the dining room, I wash dishes, and sometimes I work at the drive thru. I help put people's orders on the tray or the bag in front," Corey said.



Over the years Stark DD has been there to support Corey as he advocates for what he wants and needs, including developing job skills and participating in social activities. Corey utilizes a Level 1 Medicaid waiver to fund job coaching and Homemaker Personal Care (HPC) for social outings.

“Corey uses Individual Employment Support (IES) services with his job coaching to support him with his job at Wendy’s. This was especially important coming back from COVID and helping Corey adapt to the changes dealing with health and safety protocols. He was able to overcome many of those challenges to keep the job that he loved,” said Loralynn Wharton, Corey’s Stark DD Service and Support Administrator. “He has also recently begun Career Discovery/Career Planning services to support Corey’s goals of getting a job utilizing his computer skills and media marketing/creating interests.”

“Corey never ceases to amaze me with his ability to advocate for the things that he wants in his life. He is fearless when it comes to making the contacts needed in order to accomplish his goals! It is inspiring to witness what all he has done and continues to strive for. I am honored to be a part of his support team and not seeing “Where life takes Corey”, rather witnessing “Where Corey takes life,” said Loralynn.

