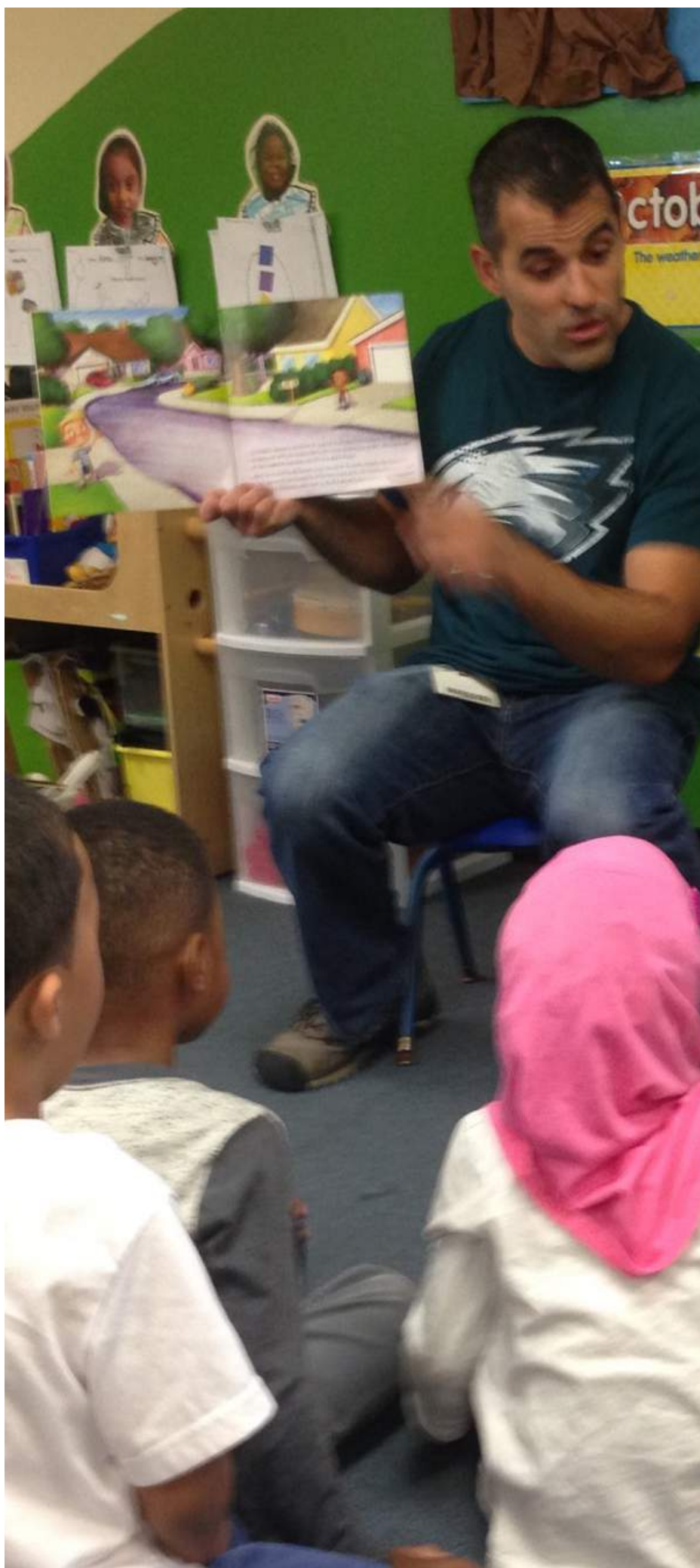


# LOVE • HOPE • GROW



Our SPIN Frankford Pre-school has over 225 children who are coming to school every day! Learning the names and faces of all the new friends can be quite a challenge. When you add in that some of these children have also been diagnosed with Autism and may need additional support making friends, teachers know that they need to have a plan.

The teachers in the Autistic Support Classrooms had a brilliant idea. Why not visit with the children in the other classrooms and share information with the children and teachers in these classrooms about the children with autism.

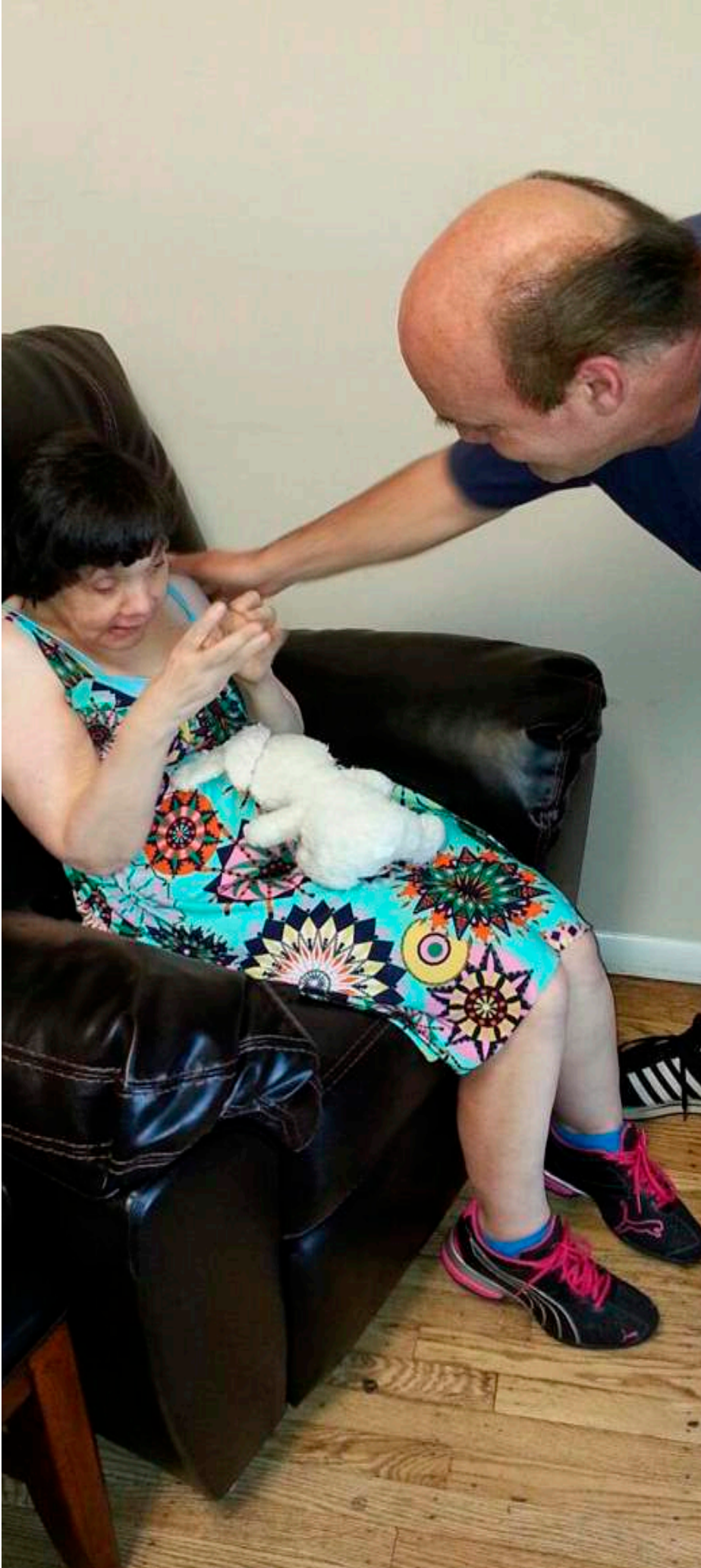
The teachers read books about children with autism and planned a craft activity for each of the classrooms. They spent time with the children and provided opportunity to ask questions. The children seemed to enjoy the stories focused on how children with autism are children who just play a little differently or may speak a bit differently but mostly they just want to play and have friends and have a good time just like everyone else.

Within the next few days the success of the activity was evident. Teachers saw the children reaching out to one another. As the children from the Autistic Support classroom were coming to lunch, other children were saying “Hi” and some of the children with autism were returning the greeting. Best of all, one of the teachers overheard a child ask their new friend “Do you want to play with me?”

Children were embracing Love • Hope • Grow at SPIN!



# A FAMILY REUNION



Everyone wants to be connected to their family. Bernadette was welcomed into her new home in June 2015 with open arms. Bernadette resided at the Ebensburg State Center for almost 50 years and was not experiencing life in the community. Unfortunately, like so many, she lost touch with family through those years and the team was told they would never find any family members.

As Bernadette settled into her new home and comfortable surroundings there were SPIN managers working diligently to see if they could find some of Bernadette's "lost" family. With hard work and caring persistence, Bernadette's team was able to locate and contact her brother Bill. Bill never met Bernadette, but knew he had a sister and was anxious to meet her.

Happiness filled the air when the day finally arrived that Bill and his sister would finally meet. Bill was thrilled to know that they both lived in Northeast Philadelphia. He said, "I always knew I had a younger sister, and dreamed that one day we could meet each other!" On July 25, 2015, they met for the first time after 55 long years! Their reunion was full of tears for all the years they never knew each other, but full of joy and laughter too of all the memories they could begin to create.

Bill and Bernadette's bond developed that day and is growing. Bill visited with Bernadette a few days later to celebrate her birthday together for the first time. This time, Bill brought Bernadette an old family photo for her wall and a video of himself for Bernadette to watch at her leisure. It was a beautiful moment with the promise of many more special times to come.

# A WHOLE NEW WORLD



One year ago Joan's life began a true transformation. With grit and determination, Joan has overcome many obstacles that previously were barriers to her success. With the aid of a very caring, skilled and dedicated team, Joan has found a purpose in life that motivates her and gives her the fulfillment she strives to attain.

Within the last year, Joan has grown tremendously in so many areas of personal development. She has established meaningful and successful relationships demonstrating an increased sense of self-esteem, empowerment and enhanced feelings of well-being.

Joan loves to be out and about in her community including fishing, trips to the Jersey shore, local museums, the Camden Aquarium, outings to casinos, movies, shopping, visiting and dining out with friends and hosting her 37th birthday party in her home. Most importantly, Joan has been successful in obtaining employment this year. She is proudly employed as a custodian at a yoga studio 3 days a month. She is a wonderful employee and hopes to increase her days. Joan also maintains many supportive partnerships with the Sisters of Holy Redeemer as a volunteer at their convent.

Joan's success is the outcome of people believing in all that is possible. Today, Joan lives a healthy, balanced self-determined life surrounded by people who care deeply, encourage, support and promote independence. On a daily basis, Joan continues to pursue her dreams and aspirations by making informed decisions to achieve her full potential as she travels along her journey of life.



# A COSMIC EXPERIENCE



When Deja began working with SPIN Employment Services three years ago, she was apprehensive about the job finding process. Her Employment Specialist, Alyse was determined to ease Deja's anxieties and support Deja to share her hopes and dreams using her own voice.

Through the Discovery process, it became clear that Deja was most happy and engaged when she was around children. Deja began to look for jobs where she could interact with children and eventually came across Cosmic Café on Boathouse Row, part of the Philadelphia Parks and Recreation Department. This restaurant is swarming with children laughing and having fun as they enjoy their meal by the river. After meeting the supportive managers and learning about the café's unique menu and sustainable business practices, Deja was certain this was the right place for her. Owner, Peg Botto, and General Manager, Adam Howell, not only pride themselves on farm to table fresh, organic and local food, but also on their commitment to giving people a chance to prove their capabilities and enjoy meaningful employment.

Deja loves her job where she is responsible for food preparation and cooking, juicing fresh fruits and vegetables and assembling the bottles. With the support of her coworkers and Alyse, Deja has transformed from a shy girl who spent most of her days quietly in her home to a confident young woman with a promising career! Since Deja started working, three additional employees supported by SPIN have secured jobs utilizing their unique skills at the Café.

Cosmic Café is a role model to all employers, as they reflected on their business operations, identified unmet needs and hired eager, high performing employees. Their diversified workforce meets the needs of the café, which has ultimately improved the overall customer experience and ensured right fit positions for Deja and others!



# SERVICE WITH A SMILE



Meet Joshua! Joshua is a charming 12 year old with a smile that lights up a room! You'd never know by looking at that magical smile that Joshua has already faced many challenges in his young life, most recently undergoing surgery to increase his mobility. Thankfully Joshua has a Mom who is his strongest supporter and fiercest advocate! Joshua also has a terrific team at SPIN that helps him and his mom continue to thrive.

Joshua's mom sought services through SPIN's Autism Center for Excellence to help her gain access to the right services and supports for her family and to help Joshua continue to develop skills that will improve his independence. With the support of his SPIN team working in collaboration with Joshua's mother, Joshua has been tackling other challenges. He is working hard at using his Go-Talk device to express himself so that he doesn't become frustrated when he wants to make himself understood. Joshua's mother has reported that she has seen tremendous growth in Joshua noting that he is now learning how to self-calm, becoming more tolerant of change, and connecting his actions with their outcomes.

Heather, the family's Case Manager, has been hard at work connecting them with an advocate to help Joshua connect with proper educational supports and to help Joshua's family connect with another much needed resource – an accessible vehicle to improve their access to all of life's possibilities. Heather identified and successfully applied for a grant that enabled the family to purchase an accessible vehicle from SPIN's "retired" fleet.

With their new wheels, Joshua and his mother are now sporting even bigger smiles as they make their way around their world in style. Joshua is truly a remarkable young man with a bright smile and a bright future!



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# FRIENDS FOR LIFE



James (JJ), Michael, and Anthony are young men who met as children and traveled through their years enjoying each other's company, learning and growing. Their parents also became friends and offered support to each other through good times and bad.

The three men had been receiving support and services from SPIN and about two years ago, these families approached SPIN to discuss the possibility of James, Mike and Anthony living together in a SPIN CLA. They were helping each man develop skills, at home, to reach this goal. After many meetings, hard work, expressions of fears, tears and laughter the guys were READY! A perfect home was located and renovated for their specific needs and it happened!

On July 14, these three men moved to Jackson Street. It is a true "bachelor pad" with lots of socializing; friends and family always welcome! Then on Labor Day they had a picnic where they gathered with SPIN team members, extended family and longtime friends. This was a celebration of their achievement towards independence and the true labor of love it took to make this dream a reality.

As one mom said, "the cookout made the guys truly feel that now, Jackson Street, is their home. They know that family and friends will be a big part of their life in their new house. We truly feel lucky and blessed."



# WORKING OUT AND WINNING



Sarah was ready for a change. She became a member of the Norcom Community Center (NCC) four years ago. She was seeking a healthier lifestyle and found that through personal training. Sarah has worked with all of the expert SPIN Trainers and is now training 2-3 days per week, having lost 20 lbs. with a goal of losing 50 lbs for her sister's wedding.

Sarah loves to dance so her trainer, John Haughney, incorporates this into her routine with HipHop cardio and Zumba classes being her favorites. As Sarah gains strength she has also achieved personal records, lifting over 100 lbs. on the dead lift and completing full pushups.

This fitness regimen has not only improved Sarah's physical wellness but has a positive effect on her confidence level and self-esteem. A member is defined as "an individual belonging to a group". Sarah, in her fabulous fitness attire, certainly belongs at the Norcom Community Center in every sense of the word. Whether she is whipping the battle ropes, punching the heavy bag or pushing the weighted sled, Sarah gives 100%! Sarah's positive spirit makes her a NCC member that everyone knows and loves. Sarah is Norcom's "Biggest Winner".



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# SPIN UNITED COALITION: RAISING AWARENESS AND SUPPORT



What started as a mere conversation on September 12th, 2014 about one of our employees who lost several members of her family to Ebola from her homeland, Liberia, grew into a much larger discussion of how this epidemic was completely ravaging the West African region where many in our diverse workforce hail from. Empowered with the determination to “do something” and to embrace the diverse needs of the SPIN community, the SPIN United Coalition was created to address pressing and prevailing matters that are having an impact in the local, national or international community that is also having a direct impact on SPIN’s workforce. In this instance, SPIN United Coalition promoted awareness, provided support and raised much needed funds to support the global initiative to eradicate Ebola.

November 17 – November 21, 2014 was dedicated as a week of awareness. Each day SPIN provided much needed and important education about Ebola. Through a 50/50 sale, Raffle Basket sales and T-shirt sales, SPIN United Coalition raised over \$3,700 that was donated to Doctors without Borders. The culminating activity was an Awareness Event on Friday, November 20, 2014, individuals, family members and SPIN employees joined together with the SPIN United Coalition for an Ebola Free World. An emotionally compelling documentary was created in which members of the SPIN United Coalition told their personal stories of how Ebola has impacted their family and friends.

From this tragic situation SPIN rose a greater, stronger and more aware organization in which the barriers of disease, disability, race or religion have no borders.





# TAKE ME OUT TO THE BALL GAME



In celebration of Autism Awareness Month in April, SPIN's Autism Center for Excellence organized a night out at Citizen's Bank Park with the Phillies, in conjunction with their annual Autism Awareness event. More than 60 tickets were sold to SPIN employees and their families. Thanks to the generosity of those who purchased tickets, the Autism Center was able to raffle off tickets to families who receive service at SPIN. Leading up to the Phillies game a box was placed on the front desk of the Autism Center and clients could drop their name in for a chance to win two Phillies tickets. The excitement on the kid's faces as they dropped their names in was priceless and only added to the joy of anticipation of this event. Five lucky families received 2 free tickets to the event and joined the excitement that Saturday evening!

In true SPIN form, we nearly filled a section on a very chilly early spring night! We cheered loudly as SPIN's name scrolled across the jumbotron screen and cheered even louder as the Phillies took the early lead. The group watched in hopeful anticipation as the game continued, and though our home team lost – unfortunately, a prelude to a difficult season for Phillies fans, SPIN spirits ran high throughout the whole game!

The most exciting part of this event was the ability to engage the families we support and gather in support of Autism Awareness. Some of our lucky winners still come in and reminisce with our staff about the great time they had at the Phillies game. This event and the enthusiastic response from our staff and our families are stellar examples of SPIN's dedication and commitment to People First, inclusive services. Here's to a better 2016 season ahead... and another homerun for SPIN's families!

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# IT TAKES A VILLAGE



According to AARP, research shows that 90% of older Americans prefer to live in their own homes as they age based upon a deep attachment and special bond between people and specific places. Memorable moments between family and friends brings comfort to them and leaving their home because of illness or accessibility can cause huge emotional hurdles.

We, at SPIN continue to search for ways to enable those who are aging to remain in familiar environments, being comfortable in their homes. This means committing to an “all in” comprehensive approach which not only addresses staffing and care needs, but also take a good hard look at adaptations needed for the “house” to continue to be a “home”.

Minerva lives with Eileen at Claridge Street. A nice home with a front porch and loving, long term dedicated Direct Support Professionals. After experiencing serious illnesses and lengthy rehabilitation process, she could no longer walk. No one wanted to see Minerva remain in a nursing home. Everyone wanted her to feel the love in her own home. A small bathroom and steps to enter the home were the same barriers that many senior citizens face.

In stepped a group who advocated and worked on behalf of Minerva. Joe Clancy with the help of Bob Lutts, Lenny Lutts, JJ Losinno and Nick Hessian, spent three weeks in April, constructing a beautiful, creative deck and ramp which Minerva enjoys as an entrance/exit while also being a great place to hang out and enjoy the sunshine. Joe also adapted the bathroom to enable easy access and comfort in addressing personal care needs for both Eileen and Minerva.

They say it takes a village to raise a child. We say the village continues to grow as we age; the SPIN village embraces all talents to support people through life’s journey!





# IN THE RIGHT SEAT ON THE BUS



One of Mike's dreams was to ride a SEPTA bus. Now, to most this seems quite uneventful, but for this young man it was his life dream. Unfortunately many people felt this was unattainable due to challenges he experienced – until Joe DiGrazio came into his life. Joe, an award winning Direct Support Professional and graduate of SPIN's Leadership Pathway, saw a challenge and knew right away that this dream could become a reality.

For weeks, Joe began to drive by the stop where the bus would pick up passengers near his home. Mike would laugh and smile point to the bus stop sign. After a couple of weeks, Joe took Mike for walks to the bus stop and they would talk about how to wait for the bus to stop, walk up the steps and into the bus, place your token in and take a seat. Mike would smile and laugh and talk with Joe about how to ride the bus, and watch as the buses came and went.

After a month of preparation, Joe knew Mike was ready. On a beautiful sunny afternoon, Mike and Joe walked to the bus stop where they waited for the bus. Anxiety building in both of them they stood patiently as the bus finally arrived. As the door opened Mike politely and confidently walked up the steps of the Septa bus, placed his token and said "What's up" to the driver as he, for the first time in his life, walked down the aisle of a Septa bus to take his seat. Smiling from ear to ear Mike rode that bus for over an hour, looking out the window and saying "hello" to passengers as they entered.

The strength of Mike and Joe's trust grew immeasurably that day – a limitless life of possibility!



# TEAM JESS



Synchronicity is a word that seems to describe this relationship. Jessica reached out to SPIN for support in her daily life and Allison reached out to SPIN for employment as a Direct Support Professional. The first day that Jessica and Allison spent together was unforgettable because TEAM JESS came to life. They discovered a mutual love of music. It was a conduit for the development of a great relationship built on trust and mutual respect. Allison was able to put SPIN's Pillars into action and created a meaningful day for Jess that included positive thinking, self-improvement and goal attainment. In a short few months, Jessica has made great strides in her ability to volunteer in the community, participate in different activities, and express herself.

In June, Jessica and Allison created an incredibly creative video using Rachel Platten's Fight Song as the inspiration. They used an Ipad mini, a Ford Fusion, and a few favorite places around town to produce this heartwarming reflection of Jess' growth and development. During production, the video clips captured good times throughout her day along with reminders of being positive, her strengths, and her supportive relationship with Allison and SPIN. After production, Jessica knew it was possible to dream BIG and so Jess dreamed to meet Rachel Platten live in concert.

With Allison's support, Jessica traveled to New York to see Rachel in concert and realized her dream as she met her in person that night. In a few short months, Jessica's life went from staying home alone all day to enjoying a life of possibilities that she knew she could achieve!





# THE “CHICKEN” WHISPERER



For the people who work at Flint Hill Farm, Ben is known as the “chicken whisperer”. Ben started in the farming business several years ago as an enthusiastic volunteer. As he got older and his interest in the farming industry expanded he decided that he would like to become more involved in the business end of farming. So, with that in mind the idea of raising chickens was hatched!

He shared his business idea with SPIN’s employment specialist, Kim Roselli, and she stopped at nothing to support him in developing a business plan. His favorite job was feeding baby goats, but commented that “there’s no money in that” so he decided eggs were where he wanted to invest his time.

Ben is also known as the “egg man” in the town of Bethlehem. His parents, Terry and Alan, his greatest supporters, bought him a mobile chicken coop and a dozen Rhode Island Red hens. He named his company “Ben’s Best Farm Fresh Brown Eggs”.

Ben, a witty 23 year old with a keen business sense, knew he wanted to find a niche to make his eggs more attractive to consumers so he pastes jokes inside the cartons. This has become a big hit as people look forward to purchasing their eggs and reading his latest “funny”.

Ben’s plans for expansion are in the works. Ben is no longer whispering, he’s shouting his accomplishments all along the way!





# SHARING LIFE TOGETHER



Harold lived a remarkable life! For 12 years Harold lived with Adele Ginyard and they were family. Adele, a SPIN Lifesharing provider, not only provided excellent support and care, but she also gave what cannot be quantified – love. When Harold and Adele first met, Harold did not talk often and he usually held his head down. Adele noticed that Harold had music albums but no record player. She gave Harold a record player and he began listening to his albums. Harold’s life changed dramatically! As time went by, Harold started singing to the music and talking out loud. He realized that he enjoyed talking, especially to the ladies.

Harold was a vibrant and fully participating member of his neighborhood and community. He would often sit on his porch and chat with his neighbors. He would even invite them to have lunch with him unbeknownst to Adele who would then make sure to set another place at the table. Harold became known as the “Mayor of the Block.” Harold and Adele would regularly volunteer at the local church’s food program packing food items and delivering the packages to those in need. Harold and Adele enjoyed giving back as this brought meaning to their lives.

Harold was an avid Phillies fan and when the game was on, he would call the strikes. He attended many games and even went to watch the Phillies play in Clearwater, Florida. He also attended many jazz festivals and was invited by famed jazz fusion guitarist, Peter White, on a 14 day Jazz cruise.

Sadly, Harold passed away this year after an extended illness; however, his footprint is permanent in his community. Harold’s kindness, generosity and impact will be forever honored and remembered.

