



MISSION MOMENTS

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Finding the Perfect Fit

Brett is a familiar face around the Tangram office. Every couple of weeks, he stops by to take care of some business and makes an effort to say “hi” to everyone in the office.

Aside from being an accomplished Special Olympics athlete and a volunteer at places like Gleaners Food Bank and The Haunted Angelus House, Brett is also a collector of model cars. With 250 in his collection, Brett normally has a car to show on his regular rounds. While he collects all different types, they all seem to have special significance to him. Brett always has a story, “The 1941 Cadillac is my favorite because it was my dad’s car.”



Anyone who knows Brett, knows that his passion is cars—he loves everything about them and possesses an incredible body of knowledge about them.

Brett searched for employment for several years with no success. He always wanted to find a job where he could work with cars, but there was always one roadblock in his way—he doesn’t have a driver’s license. Then, he learned of Tangram’s supported employment services and received individualized help from employment specialist, Cindy Kawamoto.

With Cindy’s help, Brett made a connection with Don Hinds Ford in Fishers. The people at Don Hinds didn’t view Brett’s lack of a driver’s license as a barrier and were happy to hire Brett as part of their auto cleaning crew. Brett now works a four-hour shift, two days per week. Brett cleans both show room cars and cars on the lot, readying them to be sold.

“I clean 7-10 cars per day. My favorite part is cleaning them and seeing all the different makes and models,” Brett reports.

He also says that his coworkers are very nice people and are supportive. Without a license, getting to and from work could have presented a challenge for Brett, but Don Hinds and Tangram worked together to find a solution that works for everyone. Brett takes a taxi to work, but then a coworker takes him home at the end of his shift. This arrangement is an excellent example of how Tangram works with employers to create natural supports for individuals with disabilities so that they can be successful in competitive employment.

Brett has now been employed with Don Hinds for 5 months and looks forward to continuing his work for a long time!

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