

UCP SEGUIN HAS BEEN GIVEN SEVERAL CHALLENGES.

Will you be a holiday hero to help people with disabilities?



WALKING IN HIS FATHER'S SHOES

In 2018, James enrolled in UCP Seguin's Tinley Park Community Day Services program where he received developmental, life skills, and other training, as well as our employment services while he continued to live at home with his parents, Tim and Christine. James had distinct vocational skills for community employment, although he struggled with interpersonal communication and social acceptance.

UCP Seguin's Employment team was able to secure service positions for James at LaQuinta Inn and Portillo's Restaurant. He appeared satisfied with these jobs, but he was not fully content. Last year James asked Regina Guffie, his UCP Seguin Employment Specialist, "What about Culver's? That's my dad's favorite place." Regina tried to connect James with Culver's Restaurant in Crestwood several times, but job openings were scarce due to the coronavirus pandemic.

As he waited, James attended several of UCP Seguin's Employment training classes on Zoom. He learned how to properly wear personal protective equipment (PPE) and a variety of skills, including how to follow his supervisor's instructions, how to dress for success, and the do's and don'ts of a job. Regina of UCP Seguin's Employment team reached out to Culver's again, and they were now ready to consider James. Sadly, when Regina contacted James, he shared the news that his father had just passed away. Despite his loss, James moved forward with his interview, proceeding with his head held high and dressed to impress. Regina complimented James' appearance and his newly shined shoes and James replied proudly, "These are my father's shoes."

James shone brightly in his interview and was offered the job immediately. He could hardly believe his greatest desire came true, when he heard "Welcome to Culver's." Excitedly, he told Regina and the Culver's manager, "This was my father's favorite place to eat." Over several months, James has made the most of his "dream job" in a range of positions, including dining area clean up and serving food to customers in their vehicles. He greets customers daily with a bright smile...and is happily walking in his father's shoes.



Regina Guffie, UCP Seguin Employment Specialist, assisted James, a UCP Seguin participant, during his job hunt and ensured he made a successful job transition.

Be a holiday hero to James and other people with disabilities on Giving Tuesday November 30, and throughout the holiday season – November, December and beyond.

PLEASE HELP US MEET OUR CHALLENGES, AND DONATE AS GENEROUSLY AS YOU CAN ON GIVING TUESDAY TO UCP SEGUIN.

GIVING TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 30 • UCPSEGUIN.ORG

DONATIONS WILL BE DOUBLED BY CHALLENGE GIFTS

Send your donation in the envelope provided, or make an online contribution at **ucpseguin.org**.

Thank you for your generosity!

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