

UCP SEGUIN HAS BEEN GIVEN SEVERAL CHALLENGES.

Can you be a holiday hero to help us meet them?



The coronavirus pandemic has taken center stage in these challenging times. Yet for UCP Seguin participant Brian R, an opportunity to do “essential work” has arisen to bring him closer to a life without limits.

At age 58 and served by UCP Seguin for the past eleven years, Brian has lived in one of our group homes, while also attending community day services at UCP Seguin’s Carr Center. For several years Brian has worked at the Portillo’s Learning Kitchen, preparing food for people at the Carr Center, and performing clean-up and other kitchen chores. Despite his skills, Brian was reluctant to try a job in a new community work environment. But UCP Seguin’s Community Employment Services (CES) staff saw great potential in Brian. Starting in early 2019, the CES team presented Brian with several chances to pursue a community job. He chose to stay put.

Then COVID-19 struck. In March 2020 the State of Illinois directed all community providers to close their day services centers. With the Carr Center now closed, Brian’s Portillo’s Learning Kitchen job was placed on hold. CES staff checked with Brian weekly on other job opportunities

to pursue. In May Brian answered, “Yes, I’m ready to work.” After an interview in June, Popeye’s, a fast-food restaurant in Bridgeview, quickly offered him a part-time job in food preparation and dishwashing. Brian jumped at the chance. With UCP Seguin staff support, he learned to take the bus to his jobsite and “get the hang” of the job, especially in adhering to safe practices, wearing PPE, and preventing the spread of coronavirus. Brian has become an “essential” part of his employer’s team...and is earning a nice paycheck too!

Despite the obstacles brought on by the pandemic, with the persistence, compassion, and heroic support of UCP Seguin’s Employment services staff, Brian has made great strides in his pursuit of meaningful, productive work. With your persistence, compassion, and heroic support, Brian and other people with disabilities can continue to achieve a common goal: **life without limits.**

Be a holiday hero on Giving Tuesday December 1st, and throughout the holiday season.

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

Frank Catalano, Board of Directors Chairman

John Voit, President/CEO

GIVING TUESDAY, DECEMBER 1 • 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!

