

Johnny's Story of Success

In helping our son, John (Johnny), find employment we were lost and on different wave lengths as to where to begin. Some thought Johnny may not be employable.

Then a friend suggested we contact Bridgeway as they have a Community Employment Program for people with disabilities. Tracy, an Employment Specialist, called us back and set up an appointment. We met weekly doing required paperwork and Tracy spent time getting to know Johnny. At one such meeting Johnny mentioned he would like to work at the zoo. Instantly, Tracy went to work talking/meeting with Tammy who is the Assistant Director of Niabi Zoo. Tracy was able to set up an interview for Johnny. Before the interview, Tracy coached him on what an interview would be like.



The interview went well and Johnny was hired as their Greeter at the zoo! Johnny loves working at the zoo and they love him. Tracy assisted Johnny in getting started with his job providing job coaching supports which were short term as Johnny quickly caught on. Also, the zoo was very willing to provide Johnny with whatever supports were needed in order for Tracy to start fading supports. Tammy has indicated that Johnny is part of the "Zoo Family," and they are hiring him back for the spring 2019. Tammy emphasized to Tracy that this *is* Johnny's job. This has been a wonderful experience for Johnny. He now has a job that he loves, and he is working with people who treat him with respect. *(Written by mother of client)*