

## May Waiting List Story- Meet Elliott

My name is Elliott and I'm 25 years old. I have a developmental disability called autism, but I'm much more than a diagnosis. I like to talk and be around people. Folks usually think I'm pretty interesting! That may be because I have so many interests like reading fiction, travelling internationally, listening to live music, and playing video games.



Sometimes having autism makes life harder. I need to work hard with my family on creating realistic expectations for my future and figuring out what is a priority. I'm still working hard on becoming more independent.

I am so proud to say that I have been working part-time job at Safeway for five years. I am really good at helping people and I do a good job. I follow all of the instructions at work well. I think it is time for me to look for a job that takes a bit more responsibility and pays me more. I'd also love regular hours and a low stress environment. Let me know if you're hiring!

To help make my independence and possible new job a reality instead of just a dream, I've been waiting on a Developmental Disability (DD) Waiver waiting list for 13 years. It is finally here! After a really long wait, my family just heard that as of July 1, 2016, I'll be getting a Waiver.

We are so excited about the Waiver! It is hard to choose what we think will be the best part, but I'm happy to have a case manager who can help us find a good employer and to help me find an apartment where I can live on my own with help from my Waiver staff. We're already looking for good people to fill the job!

In the meantime, I'm going to work on learning to take care of myself and my medication more. I think I'll learn to cook big meals to impress people and even go grocery shopping with some practice and help. I am also dreaming of learning to travel around on public transportation independently and to become a stronger self-advocate. It seems like so many doors are opening with the Waiver that is coming into our lives.

I would like you to remember that each of the more than 10,584 people on the Waiting List have a story and need your help.

You can change their futures, too! Please fund the waiting list for Waivers! End the wait, start a life.

