Championing Inclusivity: Transforming Lives Through Collaboration

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- Sara S.

2nd Chance Thrift Shop is dedicated to embodying our mission of inclusivity in every aspect of our work. Through our collaboration with programs like the Stanwood High School Transition Program, we have the privilege of making a profound impact on the lives of young adults as they journey toward independence and success.

The Stanwood Transition Program is a vital resource for young adults, providing them with essential skills and real-world work experience to prepare them for the future. Our partnership with this program allows us to offer invaluable internship opportunities to students like Thomas, Karen, and Elijah.

Elijah's words, ***"I like that I get to help people. It makes me feel proud,"*** serve as a poignant reminder of the profound impact our work has on the individuals we serve. His sense of pride and fulfillment reflects the essence of our value statement - we behave with compassion, respect, and integrity. We foster an environment of inclusion and continuous growth.

Sara Stiers, Transition Specialist, shares: **“The Stanwood Transition Program is a division of Stanwood High** ***School which serves young adults aged 18-21 who received special education services in high school. The program aims to serve these students after high school by teaching a variety of adult skills and by providing them with opportunities to volunteer at unpaid internships out in the community. This provides them with real world work experience and helps develop their resumes. We have been fortunate the last 3 years to be able to offer 3 separate students the opportunity to participate in unpaid internships at 2nd Chance Thrift Shop - Thomas, Karen, and Elijah.***



Elijah restocking items

These students worked throughout the school year at weekly shifts organizing, sorting and stocking the Thrift Shop with help from a job coach at the Transition Program. These are work skills that students can transfer to future paid employment. To date two of these students are now working in our community at other establishments in paid employment positions. It is partnerships like these that make it possible to prepare students for success in future employment. We are grateful for these internship opportunities at 2nd Chance and for the transferable skills they teach our students.

Thank you 2nd Chance Thrift Shop for partnering with our program and providing these invaluable learning opportunities for our Transition students. We are grateful for your support which allows our students to achieve future success in the workforce. It is community partners like you that make our program successful."

-Sara Stiers, Stanwood High School Transition Specialist

"I have learned how to manage myself, do things on my own, and be punctual. It makes me happy that I worked there and made a difference."
- Thomas K.

