

FAMILY IMPACT



Craig

I first heard about Good Foot about 7 years ago from some colleagues in my industry and thought it sounded like an amazing initiative – Finn was in high school at the time but being the enthusiastic urban explorer he is, my wife and I knew that this would be something he would love to do down the line. I signed up my post-production studio for Good Foot’s courier service, and although one or two of my employees were hesitant at first, they soon came to understand that people on the spectrum are some of the most laser-focused & kind people around. That they’re perfect for a job like this.

In high school Finn did co-op placements in kitchens, grocery stores and food banks. The work was mostly behind the scenes. **Thanks to the thorough and extensive training he got at Good Foot, he’s now out there on the frontlines, comfortably interacting with customers and using their courier tracking software, skills that will serve him well throughout his life.**

This job has been life-changing for Finn. The income and structure are great of course, but the social component is just as important, if not more so. He met a lot of his co-workers for the first time at the Good Foot Holiday party, and he was amazed to find that they all shared his deep passion for transit, and that they saw the world in a similar way. **Working at Good Foot has made Finn feel proud and independent, like a productive member of his community. He looks forward to every single shift.** We often have to stop him from leaving too early in the morning!

Slangy, non-literal language can be a challenge for Finn, as it is for many people on the spectrum. The staff at Good Foot understand this. During his training, they always used clear, direct language. They were also really supportive throughout the process. At one point, when he was having difficulty with one of the classroom components, staff invited us to be in the room to help “translate” the lesson. This helped Finn, but it also helped his trainer better understand how he learns. **From the start it’s been clear that this is a caring, socially minded organization that’s always looking out to enrich its employees’ lives in different ways.**

People on the spectrum are the most hard-working people you’ll ever meet. Good Foot has given many of them, including Finn, the chance to show the community just how true that is, and how much they have to offer.

The In, Up, and Out program was very well presented and clear. We knew exactly what would be offered and what wouldn’t be, in terms of preparing people for jobs outside of Good Foot. There really aren’t many opportunities out there like it.

I can’t say enough good things about Good Foot; I actually get emotional thinking about it! It’s a wonderful organization that Finn would love to remain with for the long term. For years Finn’s dream job was to be a crane operator. Now when we ask him he right away says “Courier.” In other words, he’s already working his dream job at Good Foot. He’s so much **more optimistic about the future now, which makes us all incredibly happy.**