

# FAMILY IMPACT



## Joanne

Zach has had other jobs on and off, but Good Foot has been the longest position so far. The job really provides such a sense of security and stability for him.

Good Foot has helped Zach build up so many good skills. He's really been working on problem solving on the job and finding solutions to challenges while he's out on deliveries. He tries to figure out the navigation by himself, and if people aren't there to receive a package, he'll find a solution. We had been working on these things for a long time, but Good Foot has played a big part in how much he's improved. It gives him a real sense of freedom and a comfort level to know that wherever he goes or whatever challenge he faces, he can figure it out.

At Good Foot, he's found pride in being able to accomplish a job all on his own. No one is chauffeuring him around - instead he uses his own map and figures out the way forward. He comes home and tells us about his day and his deliveries, especially if he had a challenge that he needed to solve.

Having Good Foot in his life has been a very positive thing. Everyone needs a sense of routine and responsibility, but it can be especially important for people on the spectrum. Zach is extremely bright, but there are some things he needs help with, especially when it comes to reading people's social cues or giving space in a conversation for different topics. When he's interested in something, he can really zero in!

The social events have been a really important part of Good Foot's impact. Zach often needs some help in finding his own social opportunities, but with Good Foot, they are always happening. It's just a matter for Zach to take advantage of them and enjoy! Especially during COVID, Good Foot had so much amazing programming over Zoom, and that really helped Zach not feel isolated. He's become a lot more comfortable with speaking up for himself and communicating when he doesn't understand something or needs help. I attribute a lot of this to his work in the past few years.

Zach also got a great writing internship through Good Foot, which was a big area of interest for him and a very exciting opportunity, since being a writer is his dream job. Having a job coach at Good Foot has been really great - Zach has been able to work on his resume and send applications out for even more opportunities. The writing internship has helped provide a structured environment to pursue something he really loves, and his writing has really improved as a result. He used to just write whenever he felt like it, but this internship encouraged him to take those skills he already had and apply them with more focus and discipline.

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That sense of discipline and initiative has really grown because of Good Foot. He's always taken initiative with something he loves, but now he's been getting better at doing all kinds of things without asking - even laundry! If Zach has a commitment, he's very responsible.

There is a sensitivity and support at Good Foot that people on the spectrum need. Autistic people can be so productive, they just need to be supported in the right way. With the right tools like a job coach and a supportive employer, people with autism are incredibly hardworking. Good Foot really serves an important role in our community, and has helped Zach grow so much as an individual with confidence and social skills. It's been incredible to see.