

Possibilities

in Education and Training

Spring 2022



Look Where I Am Now

By Mike Hoenig, *Project Director, Conner Training Connection*

It's been a long journey for Jimmy Larsen. But after over 20 years, Jimmy finds himself living in a house of his choice in the community.

"I was at the Glenwood Resource Center (GRC) for a long time," Jimmy Explains. "In fact, I graduated from Glenwood High School. I'm 38 now."

"I wanted to go to waiver real bad," Jimmy tells me. "Before I could, though, I had to move to Woodward (Resource Center) last March and pass a class. I did really well, so I got to move!"

Once he got the go-ahead to move, Jimmy was referred to "Money Follows the Person," a program which offers one year of direct financial support and intensive case management to select Medicaid recipients moving from congregate to community-based settings. MFP Transition Specialists Jo Schumacher and Kendra Walde worked closely with Jimmy and Woodward Resource Center waiver staff to ensure that supports, services and resources were in place. Service coordination included a referral to the Conner Training Connection (CTC) for rental assistance. In addition to producing this newsletter, the CTC covers some transition-related costs for persons moving from the resource centers.



Look Where I Am Now



“Keep your nose straight. Keep it clean. Listen to your staff and supervisor. Follow instructions. That’s what I did and look where I am now!”

“I moved to the house in December 2021,” Jimmy proudly tells me. “I got to check it out several times beforehand to hang out with the three guys who live there and have some meals together. I liked it.”

Jimmy shared quite a list of favorite things about his new home. “I like to help another client put puzzles together,” he began, demonstrating his concern for others. “It’s so much quieter here, and there’s no yelling and fighting. I get to relax and watch my Packers and Huskers on TV. I love to cook and shop, and the other night I made chili and a grilled cheese sandwich all by myself.”

Jimmy is the first to admit that making the move hasn’t always been easy. “After being at Glenwood for so long, I didn’t want to have to move to Woodward,” he says emphatically. “I wanted to live close to my Glenwood friends. Though I didn’t like living at WRC, I made some friends with some of the staff there and I miss them. The good part is that now I have the best supervisor ever, Damarcus!”

Like any strong advocate and leader, Jimmy has many goals. Getting his own apartment, finding a factory job, and going to Glenwood to see his guardian are top priorities.

“Regulars” to Possibilities know that I end each feature article with words of advice from our subject for those thinking about a move to the community. Jimmy has some great ones: “Keep your nose straight. Keep it clean. Listen to your staff and supervisor. Follow instructions. That’s what I did and look where I am now!”

Iowa's UCEDD Promotes Reading and Representation As It Turns 50

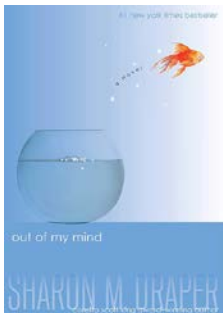
Meredith Field, UCEDD Program Manager

Founded in 1972, Iowa's University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (UCEDD) is celebrating its 50th anniversary this year. As part of the celebration, the UCEDD is making a contribution to the Disability Resource Library (DRL) at CDD. The UCEDD will purchase a series of books for the DRL that promote reading and disability representation in books.

Last year, Wendy Spoon, a trainee from Oklahoma's Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental and Related Disabilities (LEND) program wrote an article, "Disability Reads," to share her suggestions for books that she and her family have enjoyed reading, and that include disability representation.

"Having representation matters, even on the page," says Spoon in her article. "Whether it is a recounting of experiences in a memoir or a fictional account of growing up with a disability."

Her list of 14 suggestions includes brief descriptions of each book. Four books on her list are in the collection of the Disability Resource Library at CDD. Three of those are currently available:

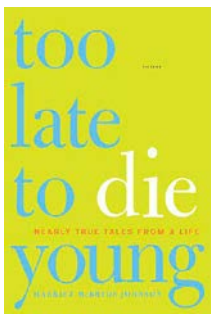


Out of My Mind

by Sharon M. Draper

This book will have you laughing out loud! Draper writes this book from the perspective of Melody who has cerebral palsy and is nonverbal. Melody is brilliant and often underestimated. Hearing

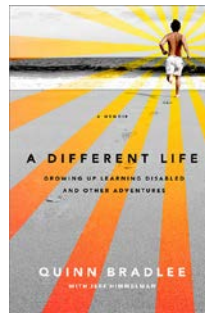
Melody's view on life is funny and refreshing in this Young Adult read.



Too Late to Die Young: Nearly True Tales from a Life

by Harriet McBride Johnson

The memoir of a "tiny wheelchair woman with a certain amount of mouth". This book is a witty read about Johnson's experiences and the disability rights movement.



A Different Life: Growing Up Learning Disabled and Other Adventures

by Quinn Bradlee

A candid autobiography about growing up with an intellectual disability.

In recognition of its 50th anniversary, the UCEDD will purchase the other books on Spoon's list for the DRL. Read Wendy Spoon's article on the AUCD website, which includes her complete list of recommended reads: https://www.aucd.org/template/news.cfm?news_id=15199&id=17

For more information about the UCEDD@50 anniversary, get in touch with Meredith Field at meredith-field@uiowa.edu.

To find out more about the DRL, visit:

<http://uichildrens.org/cdd/drl>, or search the online catalog at <http://uichildrens.org/drl-catalog>.

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Never give up, for that is just the place and time that the tide will turn.

–Harriet Beecher Stowe

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