



## MEET DANIEL, ADVANCED AUTO PARTS

With a longtime passion for cars, Best Buddies Texas Jobs participant, Daniel, couldn't have been happier than when he began working for Advanced Auto Parts with the help of the Best Buddies Jobs program. When Daniel was hired in June of 2021 as an hourly worker, he started off with tasks like stocking merchandise, as well as shipping and receiving. With support from his Best Buddies Employment Consultant, Daniel not only mastered his responsibilities, but he took on additional duties, like checking out customers at the register.

"I have always loved working on and learning about cars," Daniel said. "I'm happy to work in a place where I am performing tasks centered around what I love." Daniel said the Best Buddies Jobs program has helped him thrive in his role. In addition to helping him stay motivated, his relationship with his Best Buddies Employment Consultant has helped him feel valued and supported. "The Best Buddies Jobs program has impacted me because I have a hard time asking for what I need, so having a job coach has benefited me in a great way," Daniel said. "I know I have support behind me if I need to talk to someone about a problem or need."

- Daniel, Jobs Participant, Best Buddies North Texas



## MEET BETH, THE CONFIDENCE SHOPPE

Beth, who works at the Confidence Shoppe, is fully integrated into her workplace and her community. She says, "This is my first real job working at the store. I love it so much that I want to work there for a long time."

Her employer feels the same. "Working with Best Buddies has been one of the many highlights of our small business. We have had the opportunity to hire part time staff, contract models, and do many work observations to find the perfect fit for our company. Beth is our current part time worker and we would not be successful without her! She always brings joy and happiness to our shoppe! She is a hard worker, detail oriented, and dependable," says Camry Hankins, Operations Director at the Confidence Shoppe. When asked, Beth shares her favorite thing about her is having her own money which leads to increased independence and full integration and inclusion.

*Beth, Jobs Participant, Best Buddies North Texas*



## BEST BUDDIES TO THE RESCUE....AGAIN!

When my daughter Carinna was struggling with loneliness and isolation as a Sophomore in high school, we discovered Best Buddies and the magic it creates through one-on-one friendships for individuals with developmental disabilities. Little did we know that six years later, during another difficult time in her life, Best Buddies would be there for her again, in a completely different way.

Since graduating from high school, Carinna has maintained social friendships but has had a hard time finding her place in the post-education world. Work opportunities placed through other agencies had been limited, and the few that came along had been disappointing--bad fits for her skills, unsupportive environments, culminating in short term assignments and damaged self-esteem.

While many people are aware of Best Buddies' friendship chapters, its Jobs Program is equally wonderful. Within a couple of months of enrolling Carinna in the program, the Best Buddies employment specialists located a fantastic opportunity for her at a Home Goods retail store near our home. Time was taken to ensure that the duties, schedule and environment would be the right fit for Carinna, and now in her third month she is loving her job. Her Best Buddies job coaches have been with her every step of the way as she has completed training and is now working more and more independently on every shift.

The satisfaction Carinna feels from a good day's work has impacted her entire outlook on life, improving her confidence and sense of self-worth. For the second time in her life, Best Buddies has been there for Carinna, helping her to be fulfilled, productive and happy.

- *Rand Huguely, Former Advisory Board Chair, Best Buddies North Texas*