

# MICHAEL'S FUTURE PLANS FOR **NOW!**

*Learn how you can take an active role in Michael's success story!*



By this point, we are sure you have come to realize that Michael Rudolph is an amazing human being, and we absolutely could not agree more! He has become an essential member of the Helping You Be, Belong, and Become (HUB) Day Program community and left an indelible mark on all those he connected with during his first summer adventure at Camp Easter Seal. Always challenging himself to step outside his comfort zone and expand his skills and abilities, Michael's next focus is on readying himself for employment. And of course, SaskAbilities Partners in Employment is behind him all the way - and you can be too!

Partners in Employment provides essential support to individuals like Michael who are motivated to get into the workforce, but may require some extra help along the way. Acting as the bridge that connects employees with employers, Partners in Employment offers several programs across Saskatchewan for individuals experiencing disability or barriers to employment, including the New Opportunities for Work (NOW) program. The goal of NOW is to prepare individuals for competitive, community-based employment through skills training and work placement experience.

Having already gone through the NOW program in 2014, Michael knows the benefits of getting that added support before venturing into the workforce. "It's been a long time since I was in the NOW program, but it did help me quite a bit," states Michael who despite being unemployed since the COVID-19 pandemic has been keeping busy with day programming at SaskAbilities and community-based volunteer initiatives. With very clear goals in mind, lots of support, and even more motivation, Michael reconnected with Partners in Employment to begin his employment readiness journey.

Jason Richard, a Career Planner with Partners in Employment Regina is quick to recall Michael's highlight reel having supported him eight years ago. "Michael is a very unique guy. People tend

**CONTINUED ON OPPOSITE...**



**A driver for Michael is his independence. He lives independently in a group setting and he likes to coordinate outings with his friends. I think at the base of it – he just wants to take that next step in life, in adulthood like many of us do.**

**– Mikaylee Dreger,  
Service Coordinator, SaskAbilities Regina Branch**

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**You can take an active role in supporting Michael on his journey to becoming his best self and living his best life TODAY!**

**Join or renew your membership with a monthly or annual donation and help us continue creating opportunities for individuals just like Michael who are experiencing disability in Saskatchewan. For as little as \$10, your membership includes voting privileges at our Annual General Meeting, quarterly newsletter, and the comfort of knowing you are improving the lives of children, youth, and adults in your community and across the province!**



All the staff and even the maintenance team, who despite the extra work did it with a smile because after meeting Michael that first day, they just all loved his personality and wanted him to have a successful work experience. That particular organization really embraced him and provided Michael with a strong team environment – which is something he really values,” mentions Jason. “At every work placement Michael has had through Partners in Employment, he received rave reviews and positive feedback.”

Despite not being enrolled in the NOW program yet, Michael is very much moving forward with his employment readiness goals, starting with a vocational evaluation offered through Partners in Employment. “Michael had an evaluation originally in 2014 and now we just recently did another one. What he and I are able to do now is compare the two, seeing where that growth has been made and then looking at what are those consistent challenges and barriers for him - outside of his vision impairment, which is something he can’t change,” explains Jason of the latest activities with Michael.

Moving forward, the goal is to provide Michael with a balance of services and programs that will help him reach his employment goals without taking away opportunities for social engagement and personal development. “We are at that point where we can start to engage Michael more on the employment side. But we want to be mindful of his time at the HUB program, which is something he has vocalized is important to him. It’s about finding that balance – keeping those lines of communication open with Michael to figure out what’s best for him at this point and then adapting to make sure he is happy,” explains Jason, whose ultimate goal is to see Michael flourish in a work environment that’s supportive and welcoming of his many strengths and abilities.

Sincerely,

Ian Wilkinson,  
Executive Director

**Despite some of the challenges that have been thrown his way, Michael is one of the most positive people I have ever met in my life. He goes after what he wants head-on and gives it his absolute best.**

– Jason Richard,

Career Planner, Partners in Employment Regina

to gravitate toward him. He has this energy that makes people just want to be around him. Some of the strengths Michael has shown are that he processes new tasks very quickly and that he is very friendly and social with others. Michael is never scared to ask for help, which is really important in the NOW program – that’s one of the things we always encourage. If you don’t know, make sure to ask for help.”

Offering support once again to Michael, Jason easily recalls the 28-year-olds past successes in the program and on the job. “At one of his past work placements, the business rearranged their whole warehouse so wherever Michael went he was free of obstructions. It was a huge effort on their part, but everyone was on board.

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