



## Independence With A Smile



It is not only that Jennifer is a hard worker that makes her an ideal employee; it is her cheerful, energetic and enthusiastic personality that really wins customers over and keeps them coming back. It's clear Jennifer is a valued employee at Casapulla's South in Rehoboth Beach where she has worked since her senior year of high school. Easter Seals statewide Supported Employment program provides Jennifer, who lives with an intellectual disability, with the support she needs.

"Jennifer is very courteous and works well with everyone," Mike LaPenta, Owner of Casapulla's South, says. "She takes pride in her work and it is obvious. I'd recommend supported employment to other employers to try. My experience has been terrific."

Easter Seals Supported Employment services give adults with intellectual disabilities, including autism, the choice to experience the community through individualized employment. The program matches participants with jobs in local businesses so they can earn competitive wages with the assistance of job coaching and training. Once trained in their position, participants work on their own in order to gain more independence. Ongoing supports are provided to help participants be successful in the job.

Jennifer recently took another a giant step in her independence by moving into her own apartment. She's also anticipating taking a second job to supplement her income.

"My job is my family and they understand me," Jennifer says, "I get to meet a lot of people and customers and I see them a lot."

Along with Supported Employment Easter Seals offers a range of services, including children's therapies, assistive technology, day programs for adults with physical or intellectual disabilities and respite services for caregivers. To learn more about how Easter Seals helps children and adults with disabilities, call 1-800-677-3800 or visit [www.de.easterseals.com](http://www.de.easterseals.com).