

## Easterseals helps Lodi resident find his perfect job match



**Reyker**

It was said that the Academy Award Winning Movie "CODA" has given a new voice to the deaf community because it was the first film that "allowed deaf people to be normal, hard-working individuals trying to raise a family, and navigate the world." And some said that the movie "echoes everyday life in the deaf community."

Easterseals NJ, the largest disability services not for-profit in New Jersey, agrees and applauds the Academy for recognizing the movie because they work to help people within the deaf community every day.

For example, Easterseals NJ runs a program with The Division of Vocational Rehabilitation called Career Pathways Connections, which provides opportunities for individuals with hearing loss to enter the workforce and obtain sustainable employment. The program is run by staff• that are proficient in American Sign Language (actually a few members of the staff• are also deaf), experienced in identifying workplace accommodations, trained in assistive technologies, and knowledgeable in resources for the deaf and hard of hearing. The program helps with job readiness training, job search/ placement and coaching/interview preparation as well as helps individuals to explore assistive hearing technology such as hearing aids and other technology to help them once they are hired.

Easterseals New Jersey, is determined to knock down the physical and systemic barriers keeping people with disabilities from getting "on the other side" of their goals, and working to help state where people with disabilities can thrive.

The following is a story about an individual who went through the Career Pathways Connections program and is currently employed: Reyker of Lodi joined Easterseals eager to look for work and dedicated to finding his perfect job match. With the support of Easterseals, he landed a job at Whole Foods. However, due to an unexpected move, he had to leave his job behind. He suggested applying for Stop & Shop and expressed that he was always interested in working there.

After a bit of practice and tips from his job coach, he was confident and well-prepared for his interview at Stop & Shop. He aced it and landed the job on the spot! Thanks to Easterseals' dedication to empowering and advocating for their deaf and hard of hearing clients, an interpreter was provided by Stop & Shop to provide equal communication access for Reyker during his interview and throughout his training dates. Ever since being hired at Stop & Shop, he has excelled stupendously.

His manager, Chelsea, only has great things to say about him. "It has been the biggest pleasure working with Reyker."