

FAMILY IMPACT



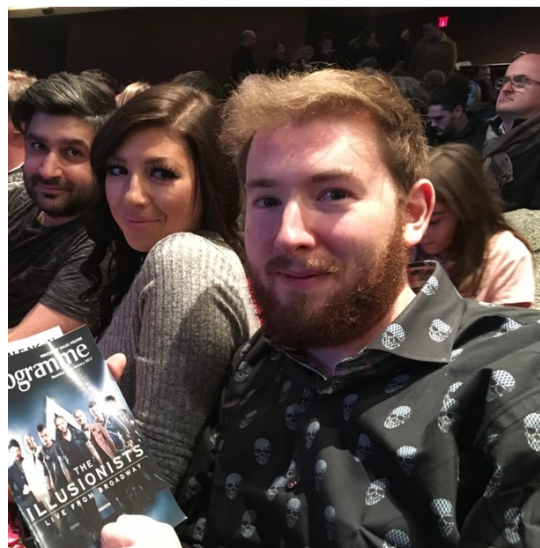
Harley's Family

Tracy Thompson

Harley got involved with Good Foot when it was still starting up, and he had just finished a few placements at college. He had some bad work experiences through these placements, with people who were not very respectful of him or accommodating of his neuro-diversity.

Unfortunately as a result, his initial reaction to the working world was very negative. Thankfully we didn't have to go through too many placements before finding Good Foot. We've always tried to build him up, and he's always had a lot of inner confidence because of that. But his social life prior to Good Foot contained a lot of bullying, and it was such a challenge. Through Good Foot, right from the beginning it was like a whole different ball game. He was realizing that he could be part of something. That he could be respected, that he would be integral to the inner workings of a team. It was just a whole new beginning for him. **It's been amazing to see how far he's come and how much he's been able to work on himself.**

Since working at Good Foot, his confidence level has increased so much. He had confidence in himself before, but he had no confidence in how the world would respond to him. At Good Foot, he's realized he can make friends and knows that he's part of a team. He takes his job very seriously and really cares about it. He's realizing that people really enjoy his company, and he can be a valued member of his community. He developed a lot of pride, and he has realized that he is doing something that really makes him proud. **He's been accomplishing a job on a regular basis for all these years, and his role as a Trainer with Good Foot gives him a huge sense of pride.**



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I think Harley's favourite part is probably the teamwork. He's part of a community here, and he loves delivering. He likes making sure things are done on time and delivered to the right place. He finds freedom in being outside and doing something different every day. He's always talking about the new places and things he sees in a day. I was so worried about this part of the job on the TTC and having him be out in the city, but it's been a major transformation. He just knows the city so well now.

Good Foot has given our whole family a more peaceful existence. We were always dealing with social issues and people's attitudes towards him, and that was just as painful as can be. **To see him happy and functioning in society, and to see him as part of an organization where he is respected, it's just night and day.** He's gained such strong social skills, and there's been huge growth in personal maturity for him. During the pandemic especially, Good Foot was amazing in keeping everyone connected through Zoom. Harley ended up joining just about every social event available.

Organizations like Good Foot are just absolutely essential, because neuro-diverse people have very special abilities that workplaces often don't recognize. **Good Foot proves that people with different abilities are hard workers, they love their job, and if you employ people with different abilities, you may be surprised by the quality of work and the quality of the person.** It's about giving people a chance, and allowing business people to recognize that it's very important to have inclusion. Harley is so grateful to have a job where he's respected and valued, and out of that gratitude comes a real sense of wanting to work hard for the company. It's very valuable and necessary. It's a business model that needs to keep going, and hopefully other people will take up the mantle and continue to do more of this.

