

## DAY SUPPORT SERVICES FOR ADULTS WITH INTELLECTUAL DISABILITIES

**Kyle\*** was born in Fauquier County, VA in 1952 with an intellectual disability. Although he began to attend elementary school, his parents were soon pressured by the teacher to remove him. He did not complete first grade, nor did he receive any other formal schooling. Kyle was able to get a job with a local Parks and Recreation, and he maintained this job competitively for 17 years. He worked as a groundskeeper.

For health reasons, Kyle had to retire from this job in 2004. At that time, he resided in an apartment by himself. Because of Kyle's income, he was not eligible for most services. He had some supervision from his parents and from the Community Services Board, but it was not enough to provide him with the quality of life he needed. He was not able to care for himself, and his health continued to deteriorate. At this point, Kyle's sister stepped in, becoming his legal guardian and moving him to Spotsylvania facility in 2005. This facility was only one mile from her home so she was able to check on him continually and make sure his health care needs were being addressed.

Kyle initially thrived, socializing with friends and participating in activities – you might even say he was the mayor of this particular community. Kyle then experienced two great losses – his father passed away, as did his roommate. Kyle became withdrawn, lost weight, no longer wanted to socialize, would not take a bath or change his clothes, and was quite willing to lie in bed all day long. Kyle's support coordinator began advocating for him to receive Intellectual Disability (ID) Waiver funding so that he could have access to services that would help him feel good about himself again. Kyle was referred to a program, Day Support Services for Adults with Intellectual Disabilities, and, in 2010, began attending the day program one day a week.

Thanks to Rappahannock United Way funding, this day became the highlight of his week. Kyle looked forward to coming and enjoyed being in the community – going bowling, shopping, and eating out for his favorite burger and fries. He made sure everyone made it off the vans and helped staff keep track of supplies and belongings in the community. After a long wait, he was finally awarded the Intellectual Waiver, and his life changed significantly.

Since September of 2010, Kyle has been able to attend the program five days a week! Kyle is able to go out in the community daily, participating in some of his most favorite activities. He is able to receive support for hygiene needs, like shaving and bathing, as well as having a great group of friends with whom to socialize and participate in activities. Thanks to your generosity, Kyle is coming out of his shell and telling people how he feels about his life.

Your donation to Rappahannock United Way truly impacts lives in our community.

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\*Kyle is not pictured.