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Celebrating Freedom and Doing Things My Own Way!

February 11, 2011 -- Many years ago, it would have been unheard of for a person with developmental disabilities to *hire* a person with disabilities to work for them! Well times have changed thanks to Self-Determination and Person-Centered Planning!



Oak Park resident David Taylor works for Madison Heights resident Kim Rosario. Both men are supported by the Oakland County division of Community Living Services. CLS provides services and supports to thousands of children and adults living in Wayne and Oakland counties.

“I like choosing who I want to work for me and David was the obvious choice because we’re already friends and he’s been helping me for years!” said Rosario. Taylor works on an as-needed basis when Rosario travels to conferences and speaking engagements. “I help him get dressed, eat, and prepare for the day,” said Taylor.

The guys have been friends for years so when someone mentioned that Taylor should work for Rosario, they both thought it was a terrific idea! “I was excited that I was getting paid for something that I like doing, helping my friend and Kim was happy to hire me because he feels comfortable with me,” said Taylor. “This opportunity helps me feel good about myself and I would encourage more of my friends to look for similar jobs.”

Taylor is also a public speaker and has travelled around the county advocating for Self-Determination. He is also working on getting his driver’s license, improving his own public speaking skills, continuing his advocacy efforts and eventually being roommates with Rosario!

Taylor and Rosario both utilize supports and services provided by CLS Oakland County which is funded through the Oakland County Community Mental Health Authority. For more information, visit our web site at www.comlivserv.com.