

# Clara's Story

August 2022

Clara is in her mid-50s and attends in Mission Road Developmental Center's Job and Life Skills training center program at the Unicorn Centers Campus. The training center always has a variety of projects going on including packing care packages for one of our business partners to surprise their employees. In this picture, you can see the results of Clara's hard work and goals, which included packaging products 100% correctly and packaging more than anyone else! Though Clara is diagnosed with IDD, she and hundreds of other adults like her, long for opportunities to be productive, included, and to earn their own money.



Clara is a very productive, motivated person. In the training program, she is able to learn important job skills that she can put to use in a community job - IF she chooses to look for a job in the community. Our Job Coaches are right there on-site to help her if she DOES decide to seek community employment. It's up to Clara to decide what she wants to do!

The primary purpose of the training center is to increase participants' sense of achievement and self-worth as part of the overall therapeutic purposes of the program. People who choose to participate in the training center program do not work to "earn a living." (Though they enjoy the rewards of their paychecks!) Participants choose to attend this program because they are provided with the opportunity to work, work at their own pace, and start and stop work as they like. This is because the training center is an inclusive and tranquil environment prioritizing personal choice and independence of the participants. The training center is free from typical production quotas and workplace policies that are ubiquitous in community businesses like absenteeism, tardiness, and limited breaks. The training center also helps people determine their interest in work and can lead to Community Employment.

These days, Clara chooses to spend her days in the loving, safe, clean, bright, and happy environment of the training center where she is surrounded by close friends who are excited to see her every day. She enjoys the freedom to work at her own pace and take as many breaks as she pleases without fear of typical workplace stresses and burdens.



*"Focusing on POTENTIAL, rather than limitations."*

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