

Winter, 2022

Dear Friend,

What does your body do when you feel joy?

Benton likes to dance in his seat when he's happy. He's a pretty quiet guy, and though he doesn't always use words to communicate what he's feeling inside, there are plenty of other ways to tell when he's in a good mood.

When he's bouncing in his chair as he works, you know it's going to be a great day.



I'm so thankful for your continued support and work in service of our mission. I'm reaching out today in hopes that you'll help us create even more dance-in-your-seat, can't-keep-it-in happy days for the folks we are fortunate enough to support.

Our friend Benton is currently employed by the Oregon Department of Human Services (ODHS), where he preps documents to be digitally scanned. He receives support and encouragement from a whole team of people, including his Exceed job coach Seanna, employment consultant Elizabeth, and his ODHS managers Carly and Rick. He's been working there since 2019, and in that time, they have all seen him grow by leaps and bounds.

"When I first met Benton, I can honestly say I had no ideas on how to support him, communication was a huge barrier," says his team lead, Rick. He explains: *"When I say communication was a barrier, I mainly mean for me, I wasn't sure if I was getting through to him, or if I was making the right decisions for training. I could tell I was causing Benton lots of frustration looking over his shoulder."*



Benton, Job Coach Seanna, and Exceed CEO Nadja Sailesman

With support from his job coaches, Benton settled into the job, and Rick found his worry and doubt fading away. *"Benton has work ethic like no one's business,"* he says, *"You can tell he loves doing the job with the care and attentiveness he applies towards the files. With his determination to get the job done I found myself being able to relax and stop second guessing."* Seanna agrees: *"I'm just here if he needs a little extra support. He's very good at what he does."*

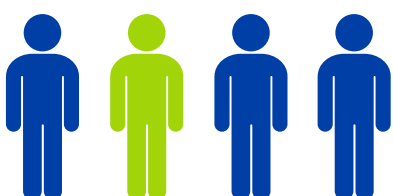
As Exceed's new CEO, I am committed to helping people of diverse abilities find meaningful employment and inclusion in our community. **With a little curiosity, patience, and creativity, any person can find that thing that makes them dance in their chair with joy.** I hope you'll help to spread that joy by making a donation to Exceed today.

With gratitude,

Nadja Sailesman
CEO, Exceed Enterprises

Benton
Data Entry Operator,
Exceed Participant

EXCEED!
enterprises



P.S. Did you know 1 in 4 Oregonians has a disability?

Help us reach more folks in need by sharing Benton's story with a neighbor, colleague, or loved one. Together, we can create opportunity and access for people of all abilities!