

*What the staff at St. Luke's are saying about Project SEARCH and the interns...*

"We feel honored you chose our department and entrusted us to have this responsibility."

"Getting to know our interns as people has been a great experience. They bring a new perspective to the table."

"It is amazing to watch them grow and overcome challenges."

"I have really enjoyed planning the intern's duties and watching my staff embrace the intern. The duties she took on are very helpful to our unit. She has been a blessing to our unit."



*" Jeff Stutterheim being congratulated by Paul Kiburz, Project SEARCH Skills Instructor, and Jeff's coworker, Charity Harris. Jeff was just offered a permanent position with MedLabs as a Lab Aide.*

Sometimes it's the little things that make a big difference. Stephanie is living proof of this. At 36, Stephanie has lived in many parts of the country. In 2008, she moved to Iowa from Texas to rejoin her family. Although she enjoyed being near them, she wanted something more. She wanted to be employed.

Stephanie struggled to find the guidance needed to be successful. She was selected to participate in a program through The Arc of East Central Iowa called Project SEARCH.

When the program started in the fall of 2014, Stephanie was shy and rarely spoke. She seemed uncomfortable and unsure of herself.



Over the course of nine months Stephanie blossomed and gained confidence in herself and her abilities. As the program was drawing to a close, there was one large task looming...to find a job. And she did just that!

When asked about her job at the Hiawatha Care Center. Stephanie shared, "I love going to work and I like it when my coworkers call me and ask for help."

HR Director Jessica Keil shares, "Stephanie has been a wonderful addition to our staff. She has a very genuine personality and does a great job interacting with our residents. We are grateful for her commitment to making our residents feel comfortable during meals!"