

## Adam's Story

Adam moved to Northwest Iowa shortly after graduating from High school and began work in Hope Haven's workshop in 2005. Adam's diagnosis made working in a loud packaging and assembly warehouse with many people difficult for him. Adam struggled to explain to staff and peers how painful and distracting work in that environment was for him. However, he persevered for many years trying to make it work while dreaming about community opportunities.

Over the years, Adam tried several community enclave work settings and one independent job placement. Adam suffered personal tragedy in November of 2011 when he lost his mother in a car accident. In 2012 Adam lost his community job and was struggling with personal health and depression issues.

Eventually Adam began working on and off part time in the workshop again, however, he felt more and more that he didn't belong there and wanted something more. Adam worked hard on overcoming some of his health and depression issues and was referred to My Choice Employment with Hope Haven. In September of 2014 Adam began a community based assessment at a local publishing company in their graphic design department. From the first day at the assessment, Adam learned the design software with minimal training and jumped right into creating advertisements. Within a few days of starting the work assessment, the manager offered Adam a job working Monday through Friday afternoons creating ads. Adam has his own office and has enjoyed getting to know his co-workers. Adam says that he is happy to have a place to work where he feels needed, challenged, can use his intellectual skills and can work independently.