



January 2022

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Dear Friends of South Shore Support Services

Covid has affected all of us over these past two challenging years, however, people we support have been especially vulnerable to the physical, mental and social effects of the pandemic. Restrictions around usual activities have created additional stress on the individuals we support and their families and caregivers. At South Shore Support Services, our staff have risen to the challenges, and we continue to collaboratively re-think some aspects of our delivery systems. We have started to think about alternative approaches to day services including small group activities and work options that are even more individualized. We are launching our remote support and monitoring model both for greater independence and self-direction for the people we support and also to help address a shrinking workforce. We have been actively seeking grants and community support to help us address greater needs across our program models. At this pivotal time, support from our community partners is crucial and if you have thought about making a donation in the past, this is be a pivotal time to support our efforts. We appreciate your interest in South Shore Support Services, and we hope you enjoy reading about the amazing people we serve. If you would like to contribute to our efforts, please click the "donate" button below.

[donate today](#)

Work Opportunities for 2022



Launch workers have been making the most of the job opportunities opening up and businesses are benefiting from committed, dedicated workers



Our model offers businesses a chance to hire a group of three dedicated workers with the benefit of a job coach on site who is paid by SSSS. The feedback from businesses including building maintenance, restaurant prep, landscaping, retail and food services has been exceptional



If you are having trouble filling positions in your company and would like to meet and see how our successful model can fill your company needs reach out to Kevin McCord



For information on our three-person model, contact Kevin MccCord at kmccord@soshoresupport.org

GROCERY & RETAIL ASSOCIATE TRAINING and EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM for Young Adults with Disabilities (ages 18-35)

Are you interested in becoming a grocery associate? The Polus Center is offering a two 8-week training programs that prepares you to work in a grocery or retail setting. Classes run 3 days per week on Zoom from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. for the first 4 weeks, taught by our partner, Thryv Consulting. During the second 4 weeks, you'll have a 10-hour paid

internship at either Whole Foods or Price Chopper, with a coach, which will pay \$14.25 per hour.

Two Classes Available: Beginning February 8 and March 8

What You Learn

You will learn the essentials of various grocery store positions. Topics covered include:

- Understanding Grocery Departments
- Cashiering fundamentals
- Safe Food Handling
- Cleaning & Maintenance
- Stocking & Facing Shelves
- Ergonomic Lifting and workplace Codes of Conduct
- Soft Skills and Superior Customer Service
- Professionalism and Etiquette
- Current Health/Safety Standards and awareness related to Covid-19

After Your Training This training prepares you interview for a job at the store where you intern. Work hours are flexible - you may work anywhere from 10-40 hours per week (if hours are available). Starting wages range from \$14.25 to \$15 per hour.

Qualifications Candidates must be a MA resident aged 18-35; have a disability; have had their Covid vaccinations; be unemployed or underemployed; and not currently be enrolled in High School.

Locations This is an employment preparation program, not just a training, therefore it's important that participants can get to one of the stores that is sponsoring the training and internships.

There MAY be some additional opportunities

Our local Whole Foods is in South Weymouth

Cost:

This training is grant funded and is FREE to participants who are interested in working competitively at a grocery store upon completion. Space is limited and there are employment expectations – this is a train to work program, not just a general training.

Interested? To learn more or to set up a virtual interview for a seat in this exciting program, please send your resume if you have one or an email with your contact info (email, phone, address -- and please include info about your support agency's personnel if applicable), to Karen Gostenhofer, kgostenhof@verizon.net.

Each class is limited to 10-12 participants, so contact Karen today to set up your interview! Offered by The Polus Center for Social & Economic Development, Inc., www.poluscenter.org. | |

David Urban

South Shore Employer Liaison
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Dell Technologies Neurodiversity Hiring Program

Dell's Neurodiversity Program provides an altered interview process that is designed for Neurodivergent candidates to demonstrate their skills directly to hiring managers.

The roles available include summer internships that have the potential to lead to full-time employment opportunities. There are a wide range of opportunities and applicants are encouraged to submit their information below if they have an interest in the following job categories:

Computer Engineering/ Software Development: Ideal candidates may have the following skills: Java, Python, C++, Design Thinking

IT/ Networking/ Cyber Security:

Ideal candidates may have the following skills: Networking, Server Management, or Linux, Basic Coding, Information Security Tools, Software Development

Data Science and Finance:

Ideal candidates may have the following skills: Python, Java, Data Visualization Software, SQL, Statistics, or Finance, Accounting

Business and Supply Chain:

Ideal candidates may have the following skills: Supply Chain Management, Logistics, or Project Management, Data Visualization

Eligible candidates will be pre-screened by our external partner [Neurodiversity In The Workplace \[nitw.org\]](http://NeurodiversityInTheWorkplace[nitw.org]), and qualified candidates will be invited to participate in a skill-based alternative interview process with hiring managers at Dell in April, 2022. For additional information or an application, please see their web page at:

[Dell Neurodiversity Hiring Program](#)

Remote Supports and Monitoring



Some may think that remote supports involve cameras watching a person in their home but that can't be further from the truth. Remote supports combine sensors and two-way communication systems along with assistive technology devices that allow people to use the technology in ways they find the most helpful. Remote Support Technology focuses on the supports people choose whether they involve daily check ins, virtual assistance during tasks like cooking, doorbell technology, seizure monitoring, fall sensors, GPS capabilities to increase community independence, medication dispensers with live check ins and support and much more. To read more about remote supports see the information sheet. We are working directly with a National Company, Safeinhome, to combine technology and in person supports.

[Remote Supports and Monitoring Fact Sheet](#)



Determination Studio to Receive Assistive Technology Devices for Training and Loan.

Many AT devices are being ordered so individuals and families can try before they buy. Ring doorbell, several two-way communication devices, medication dispensers, smart refrigerator cameras and much more. Follow our facebook page to see when the AT component is available.

[Visit our facebook page](#)

Adult Family Program opens up again for new referrals and gets ready for CARF review in February.

For more information on our Adult Family Care program, please contact Katie Stronach at kstronach@soshoresupport.org

A survey team from CARF International* will be visiting
on
February 14, 2022 to February 15, 2022

We invited the surveyors to evaluate how well we meet international standards for quality. The survey will tell us what we are doing well and ways we might improve. As a result of this survey, we may earn or continue accreditation.

As part of the survey, the surveyors will interview people who receive services, their families, our staff, and others. Some questions the survey team members might ask people include:

- Do we provide a clean and safe setting?
- Do you receive the services you need and want?
- Are you treated with respect?
- Do you take part in planning your services?
- Are you told what you need to know about your services?
- Are your questions answered in a way you understand?
- Do you know where to go with questions or concerns?

If you would like to talk with one of the survey team members or want to learn more about CARF International, please let one of our staff members know. You may also contact CARF International directly.

- Internet: www.carf.org/contact-us
- E-mail: feedback@carf.org
- Mail: CARF International, 6951 East Southpoint Road, Tucson, AZ 85756, USA
- Telephone: [\(520\) 495-7001](tel:(520)495-7001)
- Fax: [\(520\) 318-1129](tel:(520)318-1129)

Personal Highlight...Sean Quill and his work with Peter the Soupman

Sean joins the “Support the Soupman” team! What started out as making and delivering hot soup to the homeless in Brockton has now grown into a regional effort which delivers more than soup! Peter Kelleher started the nonprofit “Support the Soupman” to honor his son and help those who are homeless. In addition to hot soup in the winter, the organization now delivers bagged lunches, gloves, hats, health supplies and more to the homeless around the region. South Shore Support Services is very proud of Sean Quill who volunteers one day a week with his support staff, as they help with putting packages together. While Sean is providing a service to others, he is also learning social and life skills and the importance of being a volunteer. We are proud to name Sean as South Shore Support Service’s Person of the Month! Thank you, Sean, for all you do! To learn more about “Support the Soupman”, please visit their website www.supportthesoupman.com



Thanks for reading!

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