

Gainfully Employed and Loving It: My Road to Competitive Integrated Employment

Presented by Kyle and Bill Stumpf



Kyle's Story

My name is Kyle Stumpf,
and I live in
Dubuque, Iowa.



Kyle's Story



I work at
Papa John's Pizza.

Kyle's Story

At work, I can:

- Fold the boxes
- Clean the pans under the oven
- Do light cleaning of the store and parking lot
- Stock the soda cooler





I even got to be
"Mr. Slice", the
Papa John's Mascot!

Kyle's Story

My favorite things about my job are interacting with co-workers, customers, and performing my job duties.



**NATIONAL
DOWN SYNDROME
CONGRESS**

Kyle's Story

With the money I
earn working,
I like to travel,
dance, shop and
go to the movies.



Kyle's Story

I also like to:

- go out to eat
- go to microbreweries and listen to live music
- pretty much the same things others like to do!

I am also saving money for my future in my ABLE account.



NATIONAL
DOWN SYNDROME
CONGRESS

Kyle's Story

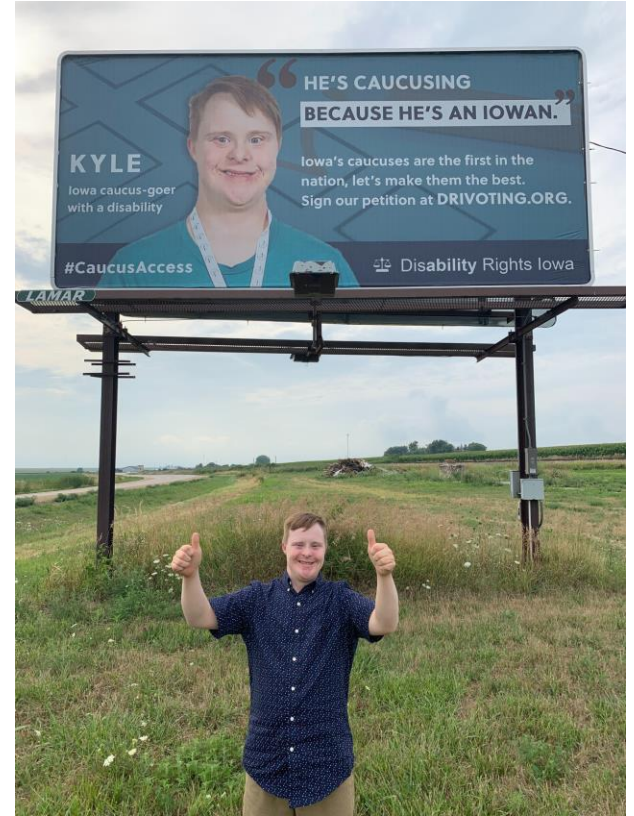


Quote from my manager:

“Having Kyle around makes for a happier work environment. He always has this contagious smile on his face. He makes co-workers want to come to work.”

Kyle's Story

"I advocate for Competitive Integrated Employment. I support and vote for candidates that support it, too."



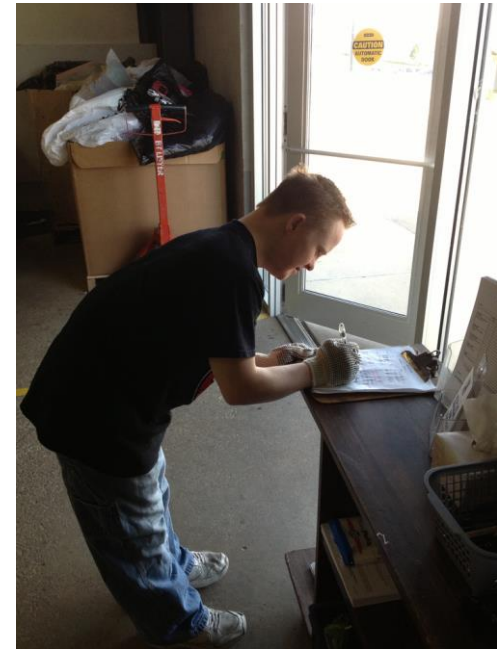
Bill's Story: Parent Perspective

Presented by Bill Stumpf



Bill's Story: Sheltered Workshop

- Pipeline to Sheltered Workshop
 - Rubberstamps
 - Guardianship
 - Automatically go to Workshop
- Sheltered Workshop
 - complicit
 - never progressed
 - Segregated
 - real employment never came up



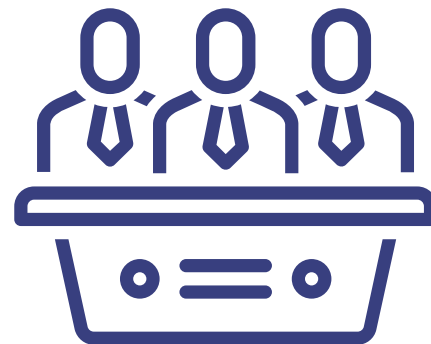
Bill's Story: Parent Perspective

- Visited work sites
- Did not totally understand his options
- Never received information on integrated settings
- Kyle settled into work at a sub-minimum wage
- From my perspective, he had something that felt meaningful, and he was paid, albeit sub-minimum wages



Bill's Story: Parent Perspective

- Getting More Involved:
 - In 2013, I served on the Iowa Developmental Disabilities Council
 - Learned more about Competitive Integrated Employment
 - Became active in the Iowa Coalition for Integrated Employment
 - Listening to webinars
 - Attending conferences on various topics such as the Association of People Supporting Employment First
 - Vocational Rehabilitation



Bill's Story: Parent Perspective

- Barrier to Inclusion
 - I have to acknowledge I was a bit of a barrier to assisting Kyle to become employed in an integrated setting
 - Not sure if schools really encouraged integrated employment as a real option.
 - You have to ask a LOT of questions.
- Realization of full potential:
 - Not being comfortable with the way things are
 - Job Coaching
 - Availability of effective wrap-around services
 - Working with others (APSE)



Bill's Story: Steps for Advocating

Tips for New Advocates:

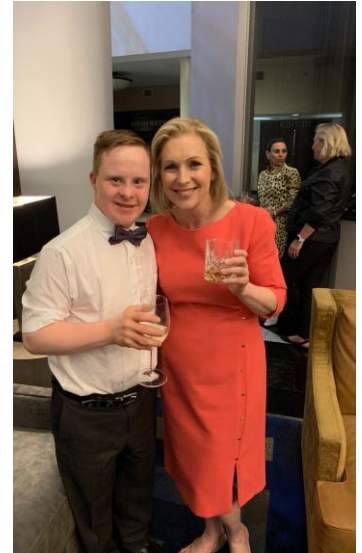
- It's important to tell your story and advocate for a specific policy
- Open your doors to staffers - welcome them, educate them, and don't be offensive
- Have High Expectations



**NATIONAL
DOWN SYNDROME
CONGRESS**

Testimony in D.C.

- Our policy focus was the Transformation to Competitive Integrated Employment Act (TCIEA)
- Telling our story
- Speaking with politicians and advocating for fair treatment in the labor force



Thank You Kyle and Bill Stumpf!

"Everybody Has Worth:
What That Looks Like is Different for Everybody"

