

## NICHOLAS' STORY

Presently, it is a tough job market for young job seekers, and for youth with disabilities it becomes even more difficult. With the help of job coach Linda Simpson, Nicholas Monaghan is a part-time employee at Home Depot.

Nicholas is a smart and bright 25 year old individual who has Asperger's syndrome which is on the Autism spectrum. Nicholas' story began when he was employed by employer Shawn McKinnon at Home Depot. Linda Simpson explains that although a part-time job may not be in your field of choice, it is a paid opportunity to practice hands on life skills; without losing disability benefits. This way, the employee has extra spending income and autonomy. His employer, Shawn, sees Nicholas as a key asset to the store due to his excellent attention to detail while he performs inventory count.

*"When he scans the truck, he really pays attention to what he's doing, and he does a great job for us. It is a huge job."* Says McKinnon.

Previously Nicholas was unemployed, he stated job searching was difficult and not really encouraging for those with disabilities. He used to have trouble socializing and reading people, but with his employment at Home Depot, he interacts with customers frequently. Being employed is important to Nicholas as he gains experience, confidence and independence.

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