



Designs & Graphics By Andilla – Self Employment for an Adult

Andrew K Pegg

- Andrew attended *Center for Career and Technical Education High School*, where he learned computer graphics and computer technology. In addition he took several classes at the local community college in the graphics arts program and did volunteer work including the regional hospital center, the community college, and his home church.
 - Andrew has a job coach who accompanies him to his volunteer sites (this coach is provided through the Maryland Department of Developmental Disabilities)
- Andrew decided with the support of his family to take advantage of a self employment program for individuals with developmental disabilities which are provided through the State of Maryland, Department of Rehabilitation Services (DORS).
 - Working with the DORS counselors, mentoring from his high school teaching assistant and former graphics teacher, and with support from his family, Andrew opened his own business.
- Andrew is the hardworking owner and the producer of sublimation (personalized products) items for his business, *Designs & Graphics by Andilla*.
 - Orders come via email or his website or his job coach can speak to a telephone customer.
 - Andrew has contact with many members of the community by taking orders, attending business shows, delivering items, and maintaining his business credentials. His job coach is available for Andrew's safety and he can assist Andrew if there are large orders (both processing and delivery).
- Andrew's goal is to be independent, to operate a business that is competitive with other community businesses (either local or internet), and to be viewed as a contributing member of the community. Andrew is in charge of the direction of his business. Autism is just a label; he believes that it shouldn't be considered a limitation or a barrier to a successful life.
- Andrew's work supports: funding from DORS, a job coach (40 hours/week) for communication/travel/office assistance, mentoring from his former teachers assistant (he has become a pivotal part of Andrew's life), who volunteers his personal time and family support.
- Andrew's skills are inclusive of:
 - A natural aptitude for computers.
 - Working with new products and techniques every day in his business - challenges Andrew to improve his methods and product quality.
 - The products come with instructions that he has to read and practice.
 - Proficient at Excel, Word, PowerPoint, Publisher, etc.
 - Proficient at QuickBooks, which he uses to track his business accounts. Andrew and his job coach work on that program each week together. Andrew keeps a list of the materials he needs to order – and his family telephones and speaks to the supplier to send the materials here.

