

I am Very Excited About My Life!

By Matthew DeWeese

October 28, 2008

Hi my name is Matt DeWeese. I have always lived at home with my mom and dad. When they became very sick and went into a nursing home, for 19 months I had nowhere to live.

My county had no money for services.

June 1, 2008 everything changed. NOW I have a family to live with. NOW I have a hab aide to take me into the community.

NOW I am living an Everyday Life.

Thank you Sheila and the Pennsylvania Waiting List for caring about people that wait for services.

Many people worked together to help individuals like myself get the supports needed for a life in the community. Thank you Department of Public Welfare Secretary, Estelle Richmond for understanding how desperate and scared I was.

Thanks to Deputy Secretary Kevin Casey, and Sandy Schalcoski at the Western Region Office of Developmental Programs for taking the steps necessary to make funding available for me.

I am very excited about my life. I have two jobs! I am a trainer in the Partnership for Self Advocates United as One. I have also been hired to water, feed horses, and clean their stalls at the Shaffer farm.

I volunteer at Good Shepherd and for the Salvation Army.

I know I am a very lucky young man. I know that there are many more people waiting for services just like I waited. We need to help them too.

It is a big job. I don't know how to get money for supports for the people that wait. I'll trust you to help the others that are still waiting.

Thank you for listening.

Matt DeWeese

Mercer County, PA



Latest PUNS Figures from the Office of Developmental Programs November 30, 2008	
TOTAL: 21,209	
Planning:	6,919
Critical:	9,746
Emergency:	4,544