

NATIONAL DISABILITY EMPLOYEMENT AWARENESS MONTH

AMERICA'S RECOVERY: POWERED BY INCLUSION



"I am so thankful for having a job during the pandemic, I wear a mask and gloves to stay safe."

- Juanita Chatman, Walmart Employee

Sarah Ramsey - Mall of America Employee

Sarah said it was difficult for her when the Mall of America shut down. Sarah was laid off for almost a year. The hardest part was that she had to stay home and having no contact with family or friends. Sarah felt fortunate that she was one of the few employees called back when the MOA reopened. She said it was difficult for her to wear a mask and take her temperature before her shift started, but got used to it fast. Sarah said things are slowly going back to normal. MOA still has a mask mandate for employees, and store hours are not yet back to normal.



Amy Remde - Walgreens Employee

Amy started her new employment journey during Covid. It was a struggle to find the right employment opportunity for Amy during the pandemic. Amy faced the challenge of virtual and over the phone interviews. She worked with her Placement Partners staff to prepare for this new style of interviews to feel confident and prepared. In the spring of 2021, Amy accepted a position that fitted her personal and physical needs. She has continued to keep her position and keeps up with the ever-changing Covid protocols on the job. "I am happy I finally got a job during Covid, the hiring process was a lot different than normal - I have never had a video interview."



Arnold Edel - Taste of Scandinavia Employee

Arnold said he is happy to be back to work. Arnold, who is working in the restaurant field, was laid off because of the closing of most restaurants during the pandemic. He was laid off for over a year. Arnold said it was not easy for him because he loves his job and missed all of his co-workers. When Arnold got called back to work he was only working one day a week. He said he was glad that he had his vaccine because he never had any changes as far as wearing masks or taking his temperature when he returned to work. Arnold is now back to his normal schedule and couldn't be happier.



Gregory Gerlach - Wealshire Employee

Greg was fortunate to continue to work throughout the Covid pandemic. Greg said so much has changed. At times, it was difficult to adapt to all the new rules, but now they seem normal. Greg said all the changes are still in effect, "We wear masks at all times and before we start our shift, we answer a symptom questionnaire and take our temperatures. We have to sanitize our hands before we enter the building and when we leave. Throughout the day we sanitize our area we work at and need to keep gloves on at all times."



Shawn Knapp - Lunds & Byerlys Employee

Shawn said he was grateful to continue working throughout the Covid pandemic. He said it was difficult at first because he feared of getting Covid. Shawn said he felt stressed a lot and cut down on his hours for a few months. Lunds & Byerlys added a lot of tasks that consist of filling out a questionnaire and taking temperatures before each shift and wearing a mask throughout their shift. After most of the employees and general public got vaccinated, they stopped wearing masks and taking temperatures. Shawn said it was great to be mask free. After several months, his store brought back wearing masks for all employees, vaccinated or not. Shawn said they continue to sanitize areas they work after each customer comes through.

