

Lexie Breselow



Using Community-based Day Services as a Pathway to Employment and a Full Life

Lexie Breselow is an outgoing 23-year old with a charming smile. She loves to play and watch sports, particularly basketball and baseball, and she is an accomplished Special Olympics athlete. While in high school, Lexie had a few community work experiences, including helping in the kitchen at Sylvan Crossings, prepping food at Papa Murphy's and Dominos, and working at Gene's Floral. After leaving high school at age 21, she started facility-based pre-vocational services Monday through Friday at Green Valley Enterprises (GVE).

When GVE began piloting a new model of small group community-based day services designed to connect people to their community, build skills and create pathways to employment, Lexie signed up to be part of the group. The group started learning about the Beaver Dam community by visiting and taking tours of various places such as the fire and police departments, library, community center, community theater, and hospital. In October 2018, the group took a tour of Hillside Manor, a nursing home facility adjacent to the Beaver Dam Community Hospital. During this tour, Lexie learned about the option to volunteer there.

To become a volunteer at Hillside, Lexie had to go through an extensive selection and training process including an interview, a volunteer assessment, a physical exam, Tuberculosis test, orientation meetings, and a full training day. When Lexie started volunteering at Hillside, she was supported one-to-one by a GVE staff. The staff support faded over the first few months and now, Lexie is volunteering independently.

Lexie loves volunteering there. The best part, she says, is the feedback she gets from the staff and other volunteers at Hillside. "They like me here," she says with a big smile on her face, "I'm proud. I love coming here." The supervisor at Hillside has seen Lexie grow a lot over the past few months. She says Lexie is willing to try anything and only has to be shown how to do something once before she picks it up. Lexie even took on the challenge of wrapping over 100 Christmas presents for the residents. She's become a valuable volunteer and really helps take the load off the Hillside staff.

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Lexie learned many new skills by volunteering at Hillside, which helped her land a job as a dietary aid at Crossroads Care Center in Mayville. Lexie works there from 11am to 4pm every Monday, Thursday and Friday. She is saving her paychecks to marry her high school sweetheart. Like Hillside, a GVE staff provided supports initially but these supports have since faded and Lexie is independent at her job.

Lexie continues to volunteer on Tuesday afternoons at Hillside. On Tuesday mornings, she also continues to participate in GVE's small group community services for skill building and connecting and, on Wednesdays, she continues to receive prevocational services at GVE.

