

October 2021



My Life with a Disability

My name is Kelly, and I was born in July of 1990. I have a congenital Heart Defect which is called Tetralogy of Fallot. As a baby I went to three different hospitals before I came home for the first time. The doctors thought I would not survive but they saved my life. I was also born with hearing loss and I'm thankful that I have hearing aids to help me hear better even though I can read people's lips. My hobbies are horseback riding, drawing, and reading.

When COVID-19 hit in 2019 I was very worried that with my heart defect, and without a vaccine that if I got COVID-19 I could get extremely sick. When the safer at home orders started in Spring of 2020, I lost my job in New Berlin. I really enjoy that job but like so many others I couldn't continue during the pandemic.

In early September of 2020 I got a call from the Mukwonago Animal Hospital to set up an Interview. They offered me a position which I started on October 12th of last year, which is great because I love working with animals. My new co-workers are very sweet and caring to the animals but also to each other. Sometimes it's a little stressful working at the vet clinic

but I have confidence in myself and I'm a hard worker. It feels good to finally have a job in my own community which I've been dreaming about for a long time. I also am very happy at my job because my sister is a veterinarian, so while I don't work with her I get to work in a similar place and it allows us another thing to have in common. Having a job will allow me to move into an apartment of my own in November. Since I live in a small town it's hard to find jobs and apartments with decent supports for adults with Disabilities.