



Jon's Q&A

WHAT IS YOUR STORY?

I was diagnosed with autism when I was two. I have had great instruction at home and school which has allowed me to make so much progress. While I can do many, many things, I still need support to be successful. I like doing things by myself when I can, so my parents adapt my environment so I can be more independent. My mom always baked and cooked with me growing up so I guess that's how I developed an interest in baking. It was something we could do together that was fun for both of us.

Mom always wanted me to be able to cook a few things on my own that I like to eat so I'm used to being in the kitchen.



What kind of work do you enjoy?

I'm only 18 so I haven't had too many work experiences. I like things that have predictable steps where I have something to show for my work at the end. Following recipes works for me as the steps are clear and I just go through them one by one. I also like work that involves movement like moving boxes, pushing heavy carts and working in recycling. I'm also pretty good at sitting at a desk and working with my hands, as long as the task keeps me pretty busy.

What's your idea of fun?

My idea for fun is spending time on a nearby lake in Texas. I like to go tubing and wake boarding. I can do it for hours at a time. I like to participate in Special Olympics sports. My favorite sports are track, basketball and bowling. During my chill time, I like playing games on my iPad. I am also very happy when I'm around people and my friends. I do a lot of hiking because my parents say it's healthy and because we can do it together, but I don't always love it. I do like to walk my dog, however.

How will you partner with Matt and his team?

I will partner with Matt by working hard and doing a good job with baking, labeling and packing biscotti here in Texas. I want my local community members, my friends and really the whole world to know more about how much I can accomplish with a little support. I want to show them how much I can do on my own and that I really prefer that to having someone do things for me. I will bring new ideas to SMILE Biscotti when I come up with them!!! I will also let you know the good things Texans say about our SMILE's!