

Achievement in the Workplace Award Nomination

Award Description:

The Achievement in the Workplace Award will be presented to a person who receives services from an InterHab member and who has made significant accomplishments in his or her workplace. (e.g. community job, workshop job and/or volunteer job)

NOMINEE: Hannah Dykstra

ORGANIZATION: Starkey, Inc.

Include a narrative including answers to the following questions. You may also attach a maximum of three letters of support. Additional information may be attached if necessary.

- **What is this person's job?**

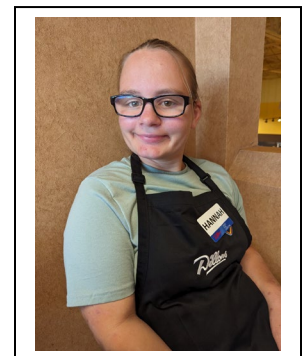
Hannah is a courtesy clerk at Dillons grocery store in Andover, Kansas. She is responsible for bagging groceries, retrieving carts (her favorite task!), general maintenance of the front area (sweeping, picking up trash, emptying trash receptacles, wiping down window ledges, spraying down/sanitizing carts), returning merchandise and providing EXCEPTIONAL CUSTOMER SERVICE.

- **What path did this person take to arrive at the job he or she currently has?**

Hannah had an interesting road to her job. She originally wanted to work with animals but had a hard time breaking into this field due to her small stature, young appearance and no paid experience.

Despite multiple rejections by potential employers in the field of animal caretaking, Hannah continued to remain positive. This determined attitude allowed her to make a leap to a more traditional job at Dillons without hesitation. She was willing to change plans mid-course because she was able to see the big picture, which is gaining needed experience in a paid position.

Hannah's future plans include maintaining her job at Dillons for around two years, working as hard as possible at her job, gaining positive references from her supervisors and gaining more experience with animals so she will have the attributes she was lacking when she previously applied to animal caretaking jobs.



- **What is this person's significant accomplishments in his or her workplace?**

Hannah has taken the Andover Dillons store by storm! Within her first four weeks working there, Hannah was recognized by a secret shopper who went through her line. Hannah and her cashier partner received a “Promise Shop” award for receiving a high rating for each component on the survey which included customer service, correct bagging of items and speed of checkout. She got her picture featured on the Dillons company website. Another month after that, Hannah received a second award for providing exceptional customer service. A customer was so impressed with Hannah that she took the time to complete an online survey and express how much she appreciated Hannah’s exceptional service. The survey mentioned her positive attitude.



Hannah now has TWO awards that most courtesy clerks rarely receive. Supervisors mention that Hannah’s ability to raise everyone else around her to her level of positivity is her greatest asset and the one they admire the most.

- **What supports did this person have in accomplishing his or her goals?**

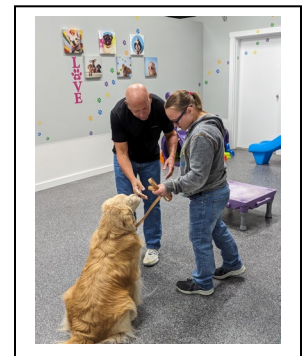
Hannah received Supported Employment job prep, job development and job coaching through Starkey. Laurie Dixon was her job coach.

Hannah has also gained natural supports at work. With that said, Hannah’s greatest support is her own positive attitude. It’s contagious. She is structured, organized and can easily motivate herself. She will seek help when needed but she is a problem-solver who will try her best to figure it out before reaching out for help. Hannah is goal-oriented. She sets goals for herself and will set herself up for success by setting incremental goals. She is realistic in these goals and will research ideas and ask opinions of people she trusts.

- **Are there other workplace goals this person is working on reaching?**

Hannah would like to earn more awards at Dillons but loves her job so she is not interested in moving to another department within Dillons.

Her main goal is to work with animals one day. Hannah recently completed a Special Needs Dog Training Course offered by Joel Silverman, renowned celebrity animal trainer and host of Animal Planet’s “Good Dog U.” Silverman held his first-ever training course for people with disabilities at Wag’en Tail Ranch in Valley Center, Kansas, in April.



- **Provide a biographical sketch of this person.**

Hannah is one of two children adopted by parents Shannon and Ted Dykstra. Originally from Pella, Iowa, she has lived in the Wichita area for about three years.

She has been open about her past trauma and is still recovering from the effects of this abuse. She wants to help others who experienced abuse but realizes that she is still healing and needs time before she is ready to serve as a support for other victims.

NAME OF PERSON MAKING THIS NOMINATION: Colin McKenney, CEO

ORGANIZATION: Starkey, Inc.

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I have reviewed and agreed to the criteria for filming the awards video.

I have obtained approval for this nomination from the submitting agency's Executive Director.

Send this form via email to mshreve@interhab.org

The deadline to submit award nominations is June 7!