



CPS CLIENT WINS TONY ROCCO AWARD

Erik Becker, a CPS client, received the Tony Rocco award on December 2, 2011 from the NJ Rehabilitation Association.

The Tony Rocco award is given annually to an individual with a disability who has overcome significant barriers to become successfully employed. In addition, the individual is someone who has improved the quality of his/her own life through perseverance, self motivation and an overall positive attitude. This individual also supports the purpose and efforts of the rehabilitation system and can act as a role model to others. Erik possesses all of these qualities.

Erik graduated from ECLC in 2009, and with assistance from his employment specialist, Jennifer Rokosh, obtained employment at Walgreen's in Ramsey. Erik is a cherished team member at Walgreen's and according to Jennifer, "Erik is both an inspiration and a role model to everyone he meets."

Erik was honored and touched to receive such recognition.

ERIK'S SPEECH

Good afternoon everyone, my name is Erik Becker and I am from Waldwick, NJ. I am ecstatic to be here today to accept the Tony Rocco award. When my job coach called me to tell me that I won the award I was speechless. I would like to thank my mom in heaven, my parents Kevin & Joanne, my sisters Amy & Kristine and my brother Kevin who have guided me to become the man who stands here before you today. I would also like to thank all my teachers, specialists and therapists who always believed in me and helped me prepare for the real world. They always encouraged me to work to the best of my abilities and to never give up on myself.

I'd also like to thank my job coach or my "agent" as I prefer to call her, Jen Rokosh, for always being there for me when I needed her. Jen helped me to learn my job the right way and helped me to make arrangements with Walgreens for a special accommodation to help me communicate at work. When others have trouble understanding me I am allowed to use my cell phone to text the words that people can't understand.

I have been working at Walgreens in Ramsey now for over two years. I went from only working 2 days per week to working 4-5 days a week. I hardly have to use my cell phone as a communication device anymore because all of my co-workers and managers are able to understand me. Most of my customers are able to understand me too! I am a great advocate for myself and I am not afraid to ask for help when I need it. I love everything about my job: the people I work with, the kind of work I do and that I get to help others. Many of my customers are so grateful for my help that they talk to my boss about how helpful I am. I feel proud of myself because many people who are faced with struggles like mine are not able to work and be as successful as I am.

I like to live my life to the fullest. I never let anything stop me from achieving my goals. I feel blessed to be here with all of you today. Thank you for choosing me to receive the Tony Rocco award!