



Sets goals.
Achieves them.
Sets more goals.

Meet Josh Woermke and his mom, Holly

Josh Woermke was born in Sudbury and moved to Laurentian Valley when he was three years old. He grew up in the area, attended Fellowes High School and had a co-op opportunity with Cassidy's Transfer and Storage which connected him to his passion for all things automotive.

In addition to obtaining his driver's license, Josh also had his forklift license. He calls his role at Cassidy's "Jack of all Trades" and he often does errands for the company or whatever else needs to be done. He has been at Cassidy's for eight years and has really become "one of the guys" in the workplace. He attends and sometimes helps coach the hockey games of his co-worker's children, and helps out with men's league hockey as well. The life Josh has today is more than many people thought he would achieve. He and his family, however, knew it all along.

Holly is Josh's mom, and she recalls learning how the importance of being heavily involved in her son's high school career.

"When Josh was in school, there were two ways to graduate - one with a certificate and one with a diploma," she says. "When teachers sent home their recommendations, it was always for a certificate, and we would correct them and say, "No, we are working towards the diploma. So the day he walked across that stage and got his diploma, well, there was a lot of hard work for that day."

Holly says the best piece of advice she received came from a principal at Josh's school who told her that as a parent, she was the best advocate for her child. Holly never forgot that.

Holly met a Community Living worker when Josh was a child, and had it not been for that meeting, Holly might not have known about the agency. Now, Holly is on the board of Community Living, helping to advocate for other people who may not have had the benefit of the advice she received.

"Everyone should know what Community Living does, not just those people who are connected to a person who is supported by Community Living," she says. "This organization is about more than workers and people with intellectual disabilities. It is about community building and volunteerism."

Tina Williams works with Community Living in Quality Enhancement. She says that she wishes everyone could be in a situation like Josh - with so many people in his life that appreciate and support him.

"In high school, some of Josh's educators may not have had high expectations of him and his future," says Tina. "But it is important to set expectations."

Holly agrees. "There is just so much that your child can do," she says. "There are opportunities, you just have to go looking for them."

Josh and Holly are Community Living.

