

CHANGING LIVES ONE JOB AT A TIME

“I just like to pay my own bills and have a nice life.”

That pretty much sums it up for **Floyd**. The Sioux Center, Iowa man finds pure joy in being able to go to work to stock shelves, load vans and clean up other people’s messes. His job at ServiceMaster in Sioux Center, Iowa is giving him more than just a paycheck. It’s providing him a livelihood and giving him the opportunity to bring value to his community.

Floyd is one of the many individuals who found competitive employment in the community thanks to the partner agencies of Sioux Rivers Partners. This unique partnership of five Iowa agencies works together to bring awareness to local businesses about Iowa’s untapped and very capable workforce.

“Ask anyone in town and they’ll tell you staffing is a big issue,” says Sioux Center ServiceMaster manager, Josh Christians. “We had a need to have someone help us out with all sorts of tasks... we contacted them and it worked.” said Christians. “Floyd makes work fun. He’s energetic—more energetic than anyone I’ve ever met. He’s a huge part of our culture here.”

“We were looking for some creative ways to integrate other assets in the community, as well as just looking for a different avenue from a hiring and recruiting standpoint,” said Nicole Ellermeier, Executive Director of Whispering Creek in Sioux City, Iowa. “I wouldn’t have guessed two years ago that it would have been this successful. We found two of our more tenured employees through the process.”

Stephanie, a member of the Sioux Rivers Partners organizations, works in the kitchen at Whispering Creek cleaning dishes, organizing them, and coordinating any

meals that need to be brought to residents. She too is a shining example of how Iowa businesses can benefit from hiring some of the state’s most capable and untapped workforce. But the benefits to Stephanie go far beyond a paycheck. In the years since joining the retirement community, she has flourished – volunteering to perform extra duties, making friends with her coworkers and bringing smiles to the residents of Whispering Creek.



Working with Sioux Rivers Partners, Bob Taylor, a Human Resource Manager at Hy-Vee in Sioux City, Iowa, says he has found an employee that is a role model for all who work at the store.

“Sara is always positive. Always ready to go. Always friendly with everyone. And that’s very important,” he said. “[Sioux Rivers Partners] contacted me about placement and coaching, and I said ‘we’d love to try that.’ And she’s been a great influence all around. When you talk to the people who work right next to her, day in and day out, they’re always happy to see her,” said Bob. “That’s what inspires me most about her. If everyone would be like her...it would be wonderful.”

All jobs are important and having meaningful employment can make a big difference in someone’s life. That’s the message the member organizations of Sioux River Partners want all Iowa businesses to know. Meaningful employment empowers people of all abilities, giving everyone the chance to find dignity, value and a livelihood through an honest day’s work.

“It’s been a pleasure and a joy to partner with Sioux Rivers Partners,” concludes Ellermeier. “The culture you can create, seeing someone’s life improve...it’s more than just filling a spot.”

For more information on how to become a Valued Workplace and employer member of Sioux River Partners, please visit SiouxRiversPartners.org



**DIGNITY
VALUE
LIVELIHOOD**