

# Noah's *Bucket List*

## How Direct Care Workers helped complete the life of a very special Michigan man

Noah\* began receiving Direct Care services in a Michigan group home back in 1984. He lived there for more than 25 years, until his medical challenges became too complicated for his behavioral health caregivers. His brother, James, became his guardian when their parents could no longer handle the responsibility. James paused his career as a physician and moved back to Michigan to ensure his brother received everything he needed.

Recently, Noah's declining health made it necessary for him to move back into the group home setting, where he would receive hospice care and ultimately pass away during 2020.

After Noah's death, James reached out to share his gratitude with the Direct Care Workers who cared for his brother. In doing so, he shared the many ways in which these special people helped make a difference in Noah's life.

James was deeply appreciative that these workers gave Noah a home.

"Noah had three things on his bucket list: food, love/parties, and a home," James said. "Together, you all fulfilled his bucket list. I am grateful he was in a place he called home and he knew he was loved."

The group home program director also acknowledged the extreme measures taken by Direct Care Workers during Noah's illness.

"You all took care of Noah through his positive COVID status, extensive radiation treatments, and hospice care—and it was not easy," the program director wrote. "Most of you were required to come in early, stay late, and drive at all hours of the morning to make a 6:00 am radiation appointment. All the while, dealing with a program in which all six consumers were positive for COVID. You never wavered. You remained dedicated to the program, to each other, and to the individuals you served."

The program director noted that, while Noah was very loveable,

he didn't always show his appreciation.

"Loving a guy who is giggling one minute and spitting and hitting in the next is not always easy! But you guys did it," the program director wrote. "You all mastered the art of ducking while completing close intimate personal care. That isn't easy!"

**Michigan's Direct Care Workers consistently go above and beyond the call of duty in service to the people they serve.**

**Now it's time for Michigan to care for them, by ensuring adequate compensation.**



\*All names have been changed