

Inspiring Lives

Daniel Lehr has been receiving services from MORC's Wayne County Office for about seven years. While the pandemic has been challenging for the people we serve and has impacted their ability to work and participate in community activities, others like Daniel, have played a crucial role by working in critical infrastructure jobs.

Daniel has worked at Meijer for the last three years, working just under 40 hours per week. When the pandemic hit, he was faced with an important choice of whether to keep working given the COVID risks. Daniel decided right away that he wanted to continue working. "I was a little scared at first," he says, "but I wanted to keep working because the grocery stores were important and people needed food."

Staying on the job meant adapting to all the new safety requirements such as washing his hands often and wearing washable gloves to retrieve carts. He diligently wore a mask throughout his shifts even though doing so for long periods of time was difficult for him.



Outside of work, Daniel spent time during the pandemic playing video games with his roommate and also, honing his cooking skills. "I like to make hamburgers and hamburger helper," he says.

"Daniel has remained remarkably stable," adds his MORC Support Coordinator Kelly Rad. "He's adapted well and been able to maintain a high quality of life."

Last December, Daniel caught COVID, but fortunately did not experience any symptoms. "I had to quarantine in my room for two weeks to isolate from my roommate and staff and it was kind of stressful," he says. After the quarantine, Daniel returned to his job and continued working.

Daniel recently got vaccinated and is looking forward to returning to normal life. "I can't wait to go bowling again and not have to wear a mask all the time," he says. He is proud to have contributed in a such an important way during a very challenging time in our country.