

We Have a Dream

From: The heart of Jerrie Poulosophos, Board President jerrie01.vfaa@gmail.com

Our cognitively disabled members want to work, have their own homes and families and be productive members of society. The misinformed public opinion prevents this! To those of you who have been touched by this equal-opportunity disability, either as parents, guardians, caretakers or unwilling hosts:

Brendon is one of our unwilling hosts of cognitive disability. In addition, he has poor vision. Brendon was born into a large low-income family and as a result always had to carry his share of the load to maintain the family. Although he had difficulties in school he was determined to live independently. He has a full time job, drives when the family car is available to him, is working on developing a good credit rating so that he can get his own apartment. In addition he is planning on getting married next year. If this were not enough, he reaches out to our other members who can benefit from his experience. He points them in the right direction and becomes their cheerleader. With your donations, we can reach more employers who will be willing to give our

members the opportunity for a full time living wage job. It helps our members get the skills, disciplines and timing to hold that job and excel in it. The crucial years between high School graduation and finally gaining traction in the real world where acceptance is not as easily found as in school, is difficult. They don't like the labels that people put on them so they work very hard to prove themselves deserving the fulfillment of their dreams like everyone else.

We are not asking you to support them with free handouts. We are asking you to help them get prepared for supporting themselves. If you possibly can, make a year-end gift to help as many of our members as possible to work toward their dreams.

Your donation will provide basic computer skills for Megan, Julia and Mark needed in jobs that they are pursuing. Melvin needs a driver's license to move up in his job and Robert needs help to finish driver's school. Jean is applying for low-income housing because he has not lived on his own and his parents are ailing. He is demoralized to learn that some people have been on that waiting list for years. This is a trauma that happens to more and more families because parents eventually leave their children behind through no fault of their own. These young

adults are dedicated to pulling themselves up. Won't you give them a hand?