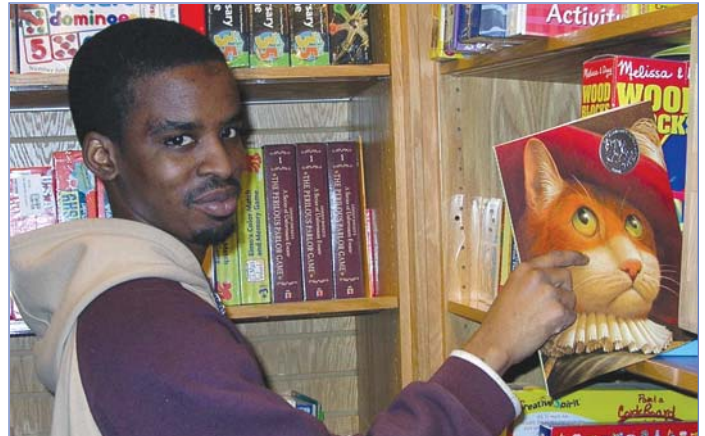


Borders opens doors as evaluation site

Hiring is one way that businesses create opportunities for people with disabilities. Another employment option that Opportunity Partners offers is vocational evaluation – something we couldn't do if it wasn't for employers like the Borders Books & Music Café in Richfield.

Vocational evaluation is a tool that Opportunity Partners uses when an individual needs to assess skills and interests at a job site. The person may be having difficulty deciding what type of jobs interest them; perhaps they need to pinpoint their abilities and their strengths. So, a vocational evaluation is an opportunity for an individual to become immersed in the work setting and try out their skills.

Since 2002, Borders has opened its doors to Opportunity Partners as an evaluation site. Borders staff members provide valuable feedback on the person's performance while they practice the job. They are accommodating and generous, always eager to help. They provide a positive and respectful working environment, making each individual feel included and valued. Even when the individual doesn't have polished customer service skills, Borders staff allow their sales floor to be a training ground.



Sheldon gained work experience through a vocational evaluation at Borders Books and Music Cafe.

This unique partnership has helped over 40 individuals discover their strengths, pinpoint the help they need, and move on to find employment.

And that's the key: when doing vocational evaluation, the goal is not to find the client's dream job. Rather, the vocational evaluation provides the blueprint and the building blocks, critical components of success.