

An employment match made in heaven!
Submitted by CATCH, Inc. Employment Service

CATCH's staff were first introduced to Anthony Natale, at least on paper, in 1992 as he was identified as a graduating member of South Philadelphia High School who would need employment training services. The school and the OVR counselor referred him to CATCH's Employment Service. Shortly thereafter, CATCH had developed a grounds maintenance contract with St. Agnes Medical Center to maintain the exterior of the hospital two hours a day, Monday through Friday. Anthony was assigned to the cleaning crew as part of his employment training evaluation. Anthony was a somewhat shy, soft spoken and pleasant person; however, he became considerably more animated when he learned that he would be paid for ten hours a week while working and training with the cleaning crew! The vocational evaluation period started even before Anthony picked up a broom – we learned he was highly motivated by earning a paycheck.

The vocational training experience turned out to be a job match made in 'heaven' - Anthony loved St. Agnes and St. Agnes loved Anthony (well, at least the members of the housekeeping department). About a year after Anthony joined the cleaning crew CATCH got a call inquiring what they needed to do to hire Anthony! He started as an 'on call back up relief worker' in the housekeeping department. This was perfect for Anthony, who lived right behind the hospital. Most importantly, he understood the concept of earning a paycheck and therefore made himself available day and night! After he demonstrated his responsiveness and work ethic, he also was assigned to the maintenance department. After additional training, his combined relief status for both departments resulted in a full time position, with benefits.

It's easy to see that this employment success story is truly a match made in heaven! Working at St. Agnes was just the beginning of the true miracle that was initiated by a real job in the community. Nearly 17 years later, this somewhat shy, soft spoken nice guy can also be described with adjectives like dependable worker, home owner, loving husband and Dad (three year old son!) This dream...this miracle...all began with a real job in the community.