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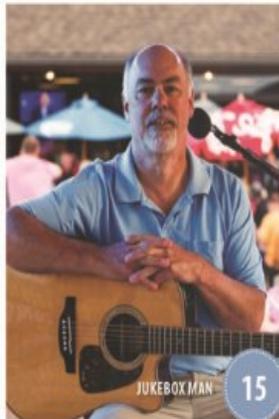
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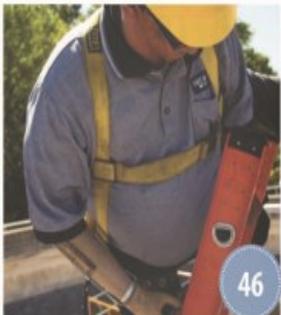
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AMY WHITE
AMELIA INGRAHAM

The Family and Friends Roadside Cart

For many people, the ultimate American dream involves owning their own business. Opening a business comes with countless challenges – from planning to financing, from filing loads of paperwork to finding the right location. All of these things require hard work, strong determination, and sometimes, lots of help. Nick Glomb's dream is to open his own business and he is facing all of these challenges plus one. Nick has Down syndrome.

Nick refuses to let this disability get in the way of his American dream. He is well-known at the Connecticut State Capitol as "The Guy," the one wearing black leather boots and a cowboy hat, with a large brass belt buckle that reads "Country." He spends a lot of time and effort advocating for, in his words, "People like me having a voice in politics today." He testifies for the state to stop cutting the budget and better support programs that will help people with developmental disabilities to get jobs,

to open businesses, to work towards living more independent lives, to be more like him. Now 28 years old, Nick grew up in Ellington, Connecticut and graduated from Ellington High School in 2006. He took regular education classes and earned seven varsity letters for managing the school's football, hockey and baseball teams. Even back then, Nick says he often talked about owning his own business, something that would incorporate his two



biggest loves, food and country music. Included in his individualized education plan was the "School to Life" program, which is comprised of pre-vocational and life skills training. The program heavily emphasizes its participants experiencing the world of work, and for Nick, that meant job shadowing at the T.G.I.Friday's restaurants in Manchester and Enfield.

Working at these restaurants reinforced Nick's goal to work in the food industry. As he transitioned out of the high school program, he got a part-time job in the food service department of Ellington's Big Y supermarket. He beams proudly as he says, "They hired me right on the spot!" He also enrolled at Manchester Community College and earned his culinary certificate from there in his third year of attendance. Around that time, he took on another part-time job, at the now-closed Pastori's restaurant in Ellington. Nick was looking for experience, but also for business

"Come, have fun, and be a part of my story."

- Nick Glomb

advice. He says, "The advice given to me by the owner of Pastori's (Bill Savvidis) was to start small."

That advice really stuck with Nick, and while his "someday" goal is to open an "all-American steakhouse," he has decided to start small. He is currently in the planning stages of his first small business, the "Family and Friends Roadside Cart," a hot dog cart where Nick will serve lunch with his famous smile and some country music on the side. To accomplish this, Nick has help from his parents, Walt and Laura,

his brothers Walter and Alex, plenty of friends, and some folks at New England Business Associates (NEBA). NEBA is a nonprofit organization known for its work in supported employment as well as supporting the integration needs and rights of people with disabilities and/or employment challenges.

With all of this help, Nick is on the verge of seeing his American dream become a reality. He has been talking to local restaurant and food truck owners to learn the process of starting a food business. He

has completed the ServSafe food safety training, and earned his ServSafe certification earlier this year. He has scoured the area for the perfect location for his cart, met with public officials and applied for permits to operate in local towns. He has filled out and filed the necessary paperwork to set up the business itself. Now, he is in the process of finalizing his business plan. For that, Nick needs two very important things: a base of operation and funding.

Connecticut Public Health Code requires itinerant or temporary food vending businesses such as what Nick has in mind to have a separate commercial grade kitchen that can serve as a base of operation in compliance with the requirements of the food service regulations. Nick is currently searching for an already-established certified kitchen that he can use as a base of operation for his cart.

In the meantime, and perhaps most importantly, he is fundraising. He has set up a GoFundMe page to gather contributions that will help him buy the actual cart along with other necessary equipment and inventory, and to pay the numerous application, registration and insurance fees. He also plans to purchase a good portable sound system so he can entertain patrons with his beloved country music, including a few of his own original songs.

Nick hopes to have the cart up and running in time for next year's Special Olympics Summer Games, for which he has been a track and field coach for the past two years. He has the hard work, the determination, and the dream, he just needs a little more help. He invites people to visit his GoFundMe page and help him come up with the \$10,000 or so it will take to get the Family and Friends Roadside Cart going. He sums it up best by simply saying, "Come, have fun, and be a part of my story."

The GoFundMe link is:
<https://www.gofundme.com/25agep7h>



Nick looks forward to purchasing his cart from John, owner of Cart Concepts International in Manchester, CT.



Nick with Daniel Rysz, Program Coordinator at New England Business Associates, a nonprofit organization known for its work in supported employment.