

Danny's "Field of Dreams"



It's easy to spot Danny working one of the lines at SOS Industries, an occupational workshop at SRVS which stands for Superior Outsourcing Service. He's the one who usually talking about the most recent Redbirds baseball game he attended. Danny came to work at SOS Industries in 1996 but never did he imagine his "field of dreams" would come true while working at SRVS. Danny's most favorite past time is to watch sports. He attends sporting events with his mom whom he likes to treat with refreshments that he pays for from some of the earnings he receives through his SOS paycheck. "It's his way of making his own contribution to our outings," says Maurine Hunsberger, Danny's mom.

Mrs. Hunsberger brought Danny to SOS when he transitioned out of public school at the age of 22. She knew that her son was very independent, loved to work and not sit around. "SOS has helped Danny keep his mind mentally active and to learn new skills," says Mrs. Hunsberger. "When he accomplishes a project, it pleases him and he is very proud."

One of the reasons why Danny enjoys coming to SOS is because he is given projects that match his work skills and interests. SOS Director Donna Palmer ensures that her staff works with each individual at SOS to find the perfect fit for them. Jacqueline Lott, SOS Operations Supervisor, has known Danny for ten years and was once his line supervisor. "Danny is definitely a hard worker. He has a great relationship with his supervisors and fellow co-workers. Since he's been at SOS, he's had the opportunity to work on a variety of outsourcing jobs including labeling, assembling kits, packaging, and bagging different materials. He really stays focused and completes his jobs in a timely manner. He's one of the best workers in the shop."

Danny hardly ever misses attending a Memphis Redbirds baseball game. He's a season ticket holder and knows all the baseball players. On the evening of June 28, 2008, Danny's dream of throwing the first pitch at a Redbirds game became a reality when SRVS celebrated Community Partner night at AutoZone Park. It was an exciting moment for Danny who was escorted onto the playing field by his Sunday school teacher Mike Lowry. Danny's favorite baseball player, first baseman Josh Phelps, was just as excited to pitch the first ball to Danny.

"SOS has been like a dream come true for Danny in so many ways," says Mrs. Hunsberger. "SOS has given Danny the opportunity to keep employed, socialize with his friends, and make his dreams come true. Seeing Danny throw the first pitch was one of the happiest moments in Danny's life," said Danny's mom.

The Redbirds staff and players continue to make Danny feel proud whenever they see him at the games. He's also treated like a celebrity at SOS. "I guess I'm pretty famous after all," admits Danny.