

## *Joel loves sports radio and having a job.*



Joel is known for his love of sports radio. He's an avid listener of KRKO, loves the Seahawks, Mariners and Aquasox. He even had the chance to meet KRKO/KXA's morning host, Stitch Mitchell, at a tour of the radio station last year.

Joel is also a reliable and hard worker as part of Sherwood's Vocational program since 2016. He's held volunteer and paid positions with Volunteers of America and a local senior center.

Working with his Employment Specialist Jayde, Joel got a paid position doing janitorial/facilities work at Miracles & Memories Academy, a respite center for individuals with disabilities in Monroe last September.

COVID precautions forced Miracles & Memories to close for a few months, so Joel's position was put on hold. Jayde stayed in touch with him and his dad to check in and see how he was doing. Joel likes to work, interact with people, and go out in the community. With the implementation of stay home orders, Vocational program members run the risk of isolation without having opportunities for community involvement. The Sherwood team remained committed to connecting with program members

remotely at least once a week to ensure they weren't feeling isolated while staying safe at home. His dad shared that they stayed busy, planted a garden and listened to the radio. "He has really good family support," says Jayde.

Now that they have opened back up in limited capacity, Joel and Jayde are back at Miracles & Memories taking the necessary precautions, wearing masks and gloves and doing extra sanitization and cleaning to ensure everyone's safety.

"Joel is reliable and really good at time management," adds Jayde. She hopes the good work Joel has shown and the increased need for precautionary cleaning could turn into some additional hours for him. In the meantime, they are both just happy to be working together again.