



I work with two adult developmentally delayed men. They're roommates and both are in wheelchairs. I do everything from waking them up and helping with personal care to feeding and communicating with them.

My job is to make their life better. It's about spending my 8 hours making sure that, at the end of my day, I've made a difference in their lives. I hope I've also taught them and shown them through my eyes what's out there in the world. One of them is blind and both are non-verbal. I just want to make life better for them.

My work has taught me patience and acceptance for who we are as individuals.

I recall one special moment a couple of years ago, one of my greatest times with the men. We took them to West Edmonton Mall for a five day vacation. It was fabulous. We had so much fun. It was wonderful to see them light up when they heard the crowds around them. It was like they got the treat of their life. Their expressions showed their happiness.

Loanne Pickard has been a residential care aide with the Kindale Developmental Association in Armstrong since 2004.

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