



## Mission Spotlight: Josh Nichols

*Josh is doing the things he never dreamt he could do when he was a child!*

Josh, 36, is among hundreds of young adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities who came to The Price Center at 22 when he aged out of the public school system. Originally from a tough Dorchester neighborhood, Josh spent most of his childhood moving from school to school. He faced a tough childhood as a result of his disabilities and circumstances. However at The Price Center, he gained the hope, skills and self-confidence that opened up a number of new opportunities and made some of his dreams come true. Now he resides at The Price Center's Humanity House in Brookline, living independently with minimal supervision and working in two jobs that he enjoys.

*"The Price Center gave me a good start in life. It gave me a chance to make great friends and learn from terrific staff who helped me along the way. I am like the American Dream-I began at the bottom but with the specialized training from The Price and my hard work---I pulled myself up!"*

Initially, Josh learned how to live in supervised settings and as he acquired more skills was eventually able to move into Humanity House. Through The Price Center's individualized job training and placement services he found his niche at Trader Joe's in Cambridge. He has worked there for more than twelve years and has received great evaluations and wage increases. Well-liked by staff and customers, Josh commutes by public transportation (which he learned to do at Price) and also works as a busboy on the weekends at a local restaurant. Although he lives in Brookline, Josh takes public transportation to attend weekly religious services in Danvers. He works out at the local YMCA daily, competes in Special Olympics, mentors others and plays town basketball. He visits his grown family during the holidays and special occasions. As a result of learning how to budget his paycheck, he has been able to travel with special groups to Montreal, New York, Bermuda and Australia.

