

Westside Regional Center's Outstanding Ralphs Employee Colin Kennedy, Is Achieving His Dream

By Lidenira Amador

Remember your first job and the joy and independence you felt when you received that first paycheck? Individuals with developmental disabilities don't always have that experience. Your neighbor, Westside Regional Center's mission is to promote independence and full integration into community life through competitive integrated employment of individuals with developmental disabilities. WRC, a private non-profit organization that contracts with the State Department of Developmental Disabilities, serves approximately 9,000 individuals with developmental disabilities.

Colin Kennedy, who receives support from WRC, is achieving his dream through competitive integrated employment, having worked as a Courtesy Clerk at Ralphs Market for over five years. When asked what he likes best about his job, Colin joyfully expresses "I enjoy my coworkers". The feeling is mutual with Colin's employer, "Colin is a great employee and a pleasure to work with...provides great customer service and is a great guy" says Xavier Hendricks, Colin's supervisor and Store Manager at Ralphs.

WRC Service Coordinator Kenneth Sears, describes Colin as "an incredibly resilient individual with an amazing work ethic. He never complains and is always willing to improve his skills."

There are many reasons to hire individuals with disabilities. Diverse talent strengthens innovation and engagement, encouraging new talent to join your team. The inclusion of employees with disabilities is an important element of an engaged workforce.

Colin feels his job is a positive and hopes more employers like Ralphs tap into an underutilized workforce of skilled, responsible and motivated employees, a win-win for both businesses and individuals with disabilities.

Lidenira Amador is the Quality Assurance Specialist - Employment at Westside Regional Center, Culver City



Colin Kennedy



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William Rassman, CFP Wealth Strategist

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- 2 Do I know how to mitigate taxes?
- 3 Have I guaranteed, that the people I love will be taken care of?
- 4 How good am I at keeping my wealth safe?
- 5 Am I financially able to give back?

Fact: To succeed at # 2 - # 5, you must MASTER # 1.

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William Rassman is a Certified Financial Planner and Director of Advisory Services for the independent investment and insurance firm Centric Capital Advisors. He began his career in NYC at Smith Barney in 2008. He has held positions at Deutsche Bank, Merrill Lynch and Mariner Wealth Advisors. Frequent contributor to the Kiplinger Letter

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310-579-9060

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12424 Wilshire Blvd, 9th Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90025