



Impact Story: Jay

Supervisor & Staff Impact

I'm all about 'whatever floats your boat, just don't sink mine.' I grew up with not much, but it made me tough and independent. My loyal companion, Bowser, is my best buddy, and when I'm not hanging out with him or gaming, I'm **passionate about giving back to my community through volunteering.** I'm not one for seeking attention; **I do what I do because I believe in making the world a bit better, not for the spotlight.**

Why did you want to work or volunteer with G4G?

I wanted to be a part of the team at G4G because I believe in their mission to make a positive impact in our community. **Their focus on providing employment opportunities and improving food access for those in need really resonated with me. Plus, I love working with everyone here; it's a place where I can contribute to something meaningful and make a difference in people's lives.** Currently, I am also actively involved in volunteering at SOYA, and this experience has further fueled my passion for community service and led me to G4G.

The first time I volunteered at Grocer 4 Good (G4G) was a great experience. I was excited and a bit nervous when I started. **What I liked the most was how friendly and inclusive everyone was.** During my initial volunteer shift, I had the opportunity to interact with both the dedicated team members and the individuals we were serving. It was heartening to witness the impact of G4G's program firsthand. **I learned about the challenges many in our community face when it comes to employment and food access, and I also learned about the resilience and strength of those overcoming these obstacles.** What made me want to keep working with G4G was how good it felt to help people in our community. Knowing that I could make a real difference in their lives was really satisfying. And I like being part of the team and the group of volunteers at G4G. It feels like a supportive community, and I want to be a part of that and keep helping out.

How has your life been impacted by Grocer 4 Good?

Grocer 4 Good has had a profound impact on my life in multiple ways. **Firstly, it has allowed me to actively contribute to helping the community, which has been incredibly fulfilling.** Working with G4G, I've been part of initiatives that address important issues like food accessibility and employment opportunities for those who face barriers. Knowing that I'm making a positive difference in people's lives has given me a strong sense of purpose. **Moreover, working with co-workers who have autism and other mental health disabilities has enriched my life in immeasurable ways. It's taught me the value of inclusivity and diversity in the workplace.** I've learned to appreciate different perspectives and talents, fostering a more accepting and empathetic outlook. The relationships I've built with my co-workers have been genuinely rewarding, and I've come to admire their resilience and unique contributions. In essence, Grocer 4 Good has not only allowed me to contribute to community betterment but has also **broadened my horizons by enabling me to work alongside individuals with diverse abilities, making my life more meaningful and inclusive.** I started off as a volunteer and now work here.

Grocer 4 Good (G4G) has played a crucial role in helping me overcome personal challenges. **It's provided me with a sense of purpose and motivation, and working with diverse co-workers at G4G has taught me valuable life skills like effective communication, patience, and empathy.** These skills have not only improved my interactions at G4G but have also positively impacted my personal life.



Working at G4G fills me with a profound sense of fulfillment. It's a truly rewarding experience to be part of an organization that makes a positive impact on the community. Knowing that I'm contributing to something meaningful provides a deep sense of contentment, and interacting with the wonderful team and individuals we serve at G4G brings me a strong sense of purpose. **Being the manager, I also have a deep affection for the role, as it allows me to lead and support our mission.**

What's the most rewarding part about working with G4G?

The best part about working with G4G is just how awesome my co-workers are and the good vibes we get from helping out in the community. **It's the smiles, the thank-yous, and the genuine bonds we form that make every day meaningful.** Knowing we're making life a little better for people in our community is what makes it all worthwhile. **Secondly, it's seeing my co-workers achieve certain tasks and becoming more independent, which is truly fulfilling.** It's a direct and meaningful way to contribute to the well-being of our community and support personal growth, and that's what makes it so rewarding.

What's your favorite thing about working for/with G4G?

My favorite thing about working with G4G is that it feels like I'm part of something that really matters. Plus, my co-workers are amazing! It's a cool team, and knowing we're making a positive impact in our community is pretty awesome. Secondly, the feeling of helping folks overcome their challenges - it's super rewarding and makes the job really satisfying.

Being on the G4G team is like being part of a big, friendly crew. We're all in it together to help the community, and it's a really positive vibe. We support each other, keep the store clean and running smoothly, and it's just a fun and fulfilling place to be.

If you could tell everyone in Sault Ste. Marie about G4G, what would you tell them?

If I could tell everyone in Sault Ste. Marie about G4G, I'd say it's an amazing organization that's making a real difference in our community. G4G isn't just a grocery store; it's a place where people from all walks of life come together to support one another. **Whether it's providing job opportunities, improving food access, or fostering a warm and inclusive environment, G4G is all about making our community stronger and more connected.** It's a place where you can make a positive impact and be part of something truly special.

What kind of relationships and connections have you built through your work or volunteering with G4G?

Through my work or volunteering with G4G, I've built a variety of relationships and connections that are unique and meaningful in their own ways. Each co-worker has brought their own personality and experiences to the table, making our relationships distinct. **Some co-workers have become friends, while others have become mentors, and some have simply been great colleagues to work alongside.** Also, we've had the chance to connect with other agencies in the community, which has been pretty cool. **Working together with them has expanded my network to include a bunch of folks who are all about making our community better.** It's been a neat way to meet people and learn more about what's happening in Sault Ste. Marie.

What advice would you give to people who want to work or volunteer with G4G?



If you're thinking about working or volunteering with G4G, my advice would be to go for it wholeheartedly. It's an incredible opportunity to make a real impact in our community and build some fantastic relationships along the way. Be open to learning from your co-workers and the individuals we serve – they have a lot to teach. **And most importantly, bring your positive energy and a willingness to be part of a supportive and inclusive team.** You won't regret it!

What impact has G4G had in your community?

G4G has had a significant and positive impact on our community. **It's been instrumental in providing job opportunities and valuable job skill training for individuals facing barriers and disabilities, which has helped improve employment prospects and overall quality of life for many.** Additionally, G4G's commitment to food accessibility has addressed a critical need in the community, particularly in the downtown area, ensuring that those on a fixed income have access to nutritious food. **The provision of free meals from the G4G kitchen has also been a lifeline for many.** Plus, G4G has really brought folks together, making our community feel like one big team. It's all about helping each other out and making our community better. So, G4G's way of doing things has made a real difference in the lives of many of our neighbors.

I've seen G4G make a real difference in Sault Ste. Marie. Firstly, they've created employment opportunities for those with disabilities and provided job skills training, giving people a chance at a better future. **Secondly, their efforts to improve food access, including free meals and BBQs, have ensured that no one in our community goes hungry.** Additionally, G4G has made groceries at the store more affordable, easing the financial burden for many.

Tell us about the people G4G serves and why it's so important.

G4G serves a diverse range of individuals in our community, and its services are incredibly important for several reasons. Firstly, G4G provides job opportunities and job skills training to individuals who face barriers and disabilities. This empowers them with the means to achieve financial independence, self-reliance, and a greater sense of purpose in their lives.

Secondly, G4G's efforts in improving food access, including offering free meals, ensure that no one in our community goes hungry. This is especially crucial for those on fixed incomes who may struggle to afford nutritious food. G4G's commitment to addressing food insecurity directly impacts the health and well-being of our residents. Moreover, G4G's dedication to inclusivity and creating a supportive environment is essential in bridging gaps for people with mental health and other disabilities. **This fosters a sense of belonging and acceptance, combating social isolation and promoting overall mental well-being.** G4G serves as a lifeline for many in our community, providing employment opportunities, access to food, and a supportive community for individuals who may otherwise face significant challenges in their lives. Its services are vital in creating a more equitable and inclusive community for all.