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AUTISM AWARENESS MONTH

Orem man with autism gives back by volunteering for Kids on the Move

Braley Dodson Daily Herald Apr 5, 2018



Skyler Moore disinfects the toys in the library at Kids On The Move on Monday, March 19, 2018, in Orem. Moore has been volunteering at Kids on the Move for seven years.

Evan Cobb, Daily Herald

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The Kids on the Move library is quiet on Monday afternoons when Skyler Moore comes in to shelve books. Those are the moments that help him relax.

“It’s a place where I can just go and do my thing,” he said.

Moore, a 25-year-old Orem man who has high-functioning autism, has volunteered at Kids on the Move in Orem for the past seven years.

Moore has a close relationship with the organization, which provides services for families who have children with special needs. He was a student at Kids on the Move from the age of 2 to 3 and received early intervention that allowed him to later enter elementary school and attend classes with his neurotypical peers.

His volunteer work at Kids on the Move started as a way to occupy time. It’s become a place for him to pay it forward to the organization that has helped him.

“Kids on the Move helped me so much when I was little and even now I still feel like I haven’t been able to repay them for that,” Moore said.

He volunteers once a week in the library doing tasks such as shelving books and cleaning toys.

It’s a comfortable place to be for both Skyler and his mother, Becky Moore. The two have an unspoken agreement to help Kids on the Move with whatever the organization needs, which has included speaking on panels and speaking at the state capitol on Kids on the Move’s behalf.

“As far as repaying the debt, how do you do that?” Becky Moore said. “How do you give back to someone who gave your child a future?”

Skyler Moore now works a full-time job (with the caveat his job allows him to continue volunteering on Monday afternoons) and lives independently in Orem. He plans to continue volunteering weekly at Kids on the Move.

Braley Dodson

Braley Dodson covers health and education for the Daily Herald.

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