

## UNITED WAY OF GLOUCESTER COUNTY

### **Abilities Solutions**

Marcus was referred for a 25-day Vocational Evaluation. His mother had already received Short Term Evaluation services from us. Both had been physically and mentally abused by Marcus's father. They left and were homeless for a time. Marcus's mother obtained employment and life began to stabilize, but she worried for her son. Marcus has diagnoses of Asperger Syndrome, Major Depressive Disorder and Bipolar Disorder. He is a handsome 20-year old but initially frightening in his appearance. He wore a long trench coat which he would not remove, his hair hung down over his eyes, he would rarely speak and if he did, his voice was low and monotone. He moved very slowly. One day he simply said "I like computers", so our IT Systems Manager spent time with him; that was the beginning of positive change. He smiled for the first time. He told our Evaluator that he is going to spend time with friends. He was seen talking to a female in the cafeteria! His appearance changed so much that he was almost unrecognizable – (no coat, moving at a normal pace, eyes visible, smiling!) He developed an interest in Food Service and Abilities provided him with temporary employment at Bagelicious while his job search was underway. Marcus ultimately obtained full time employment with UPS. Marcus is an example of many departments within Abilities and our community partners working together toward his success.