



## ASSEMBLED BY VADEN

Stride, Inc. manufactures and distributes office products - BUT - Stride is not your average company! A small, woman-owned business, Stride's goal is to provide the consumer with exceptional office products alongside a mission to provide training and integrated employment for people with intellectual and developmental delays.

We refer to Vaden as a "Super Employee!" On a daily basis, Vaden thanks us for hiring him. How many employers get to hear that everyday? He loves working at Stride and says it is his favorite job ever. At Stride he has friends and earns a paycheck. He is always eager to increase his hours and never fails to volunteer to assist with an activity. For Vaden, it is simple - Stride is like family.

Voted most "Friendly Boy" in high school, Vaden was not born with a congenital disability. He attended two years of business college before health issues took him on a downward turn that eventually led to his disability. Today Vaden lives semi-independently, thanks to a transitional living service. He has a great sense of humor and the unique ability to turn any situation into a positive one - always punctuated with laughter.

Vaden builds samples packs, works on the blister card machine and does quality assurance at Stride. His other interests include bowling, movies, computer games and especially, Facebook, which he says with a twinkle in his eye, "I can have people 'friend" me." One of six siblings, Vaden is especially appreciative of the help his sister Leanne gives him.

When asked about his favorite job at Stride, Vaden responds with a smile, "All of them! I do like the hand assembly of pens and am glad that we don't have machines making the pens." We agree with Vaden and prioritize products that have hands-on applications over items that come off machines ready made.

Vaden has been a valued employee for many years and is very appreciative of his job which he makes apparent... as his colleagues, we are the ones who should be grateful for his steadfast commitment to Stride.







