



SHIPPED BY VICTOR

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.

Victor was just out of high school when he first started working at Stride. A vocational rehab, helped him obtain a job interview which he remembers distinctly. Diagnosed with a communication disorder, Victor did not speak much when he came to Stride. His first job was at the quality assurance tables. After a time, he was assigned to a machine and became an assistant machine operator and eventually a machine operator with his own assistant.

On the operational side, Victor has done virtually every job at Stride. Today he communicates just fine... he has to. Victor is the head of our shipping and receiving department and has a crew dependent on his ability to communicate. A salaried employee, this Albuquerque native is a member of the management team and is one of the best examples of what makes Stride a special workplace. Hard work and determination got Victor to his position, it was not easy and it did not happen overnight but he has developed into a manager with skills that would benefit him in any work place.

When Victor started at Stride, there were no computers, everything was done by hand and he recalls with chagrin the paper trail that followed his every task and a manager he fondly called "Mrs. Perfectionist" who made him write it up again if it was not right. He is thankful for the technology that makes his job easier and has eliminated the use of carbon copy paper.

With a crew of developmentally challenged adults working for him, he smiles when asked how he manages his special workforce. "They are all different, all unique in their abilities, and my job is to help them be successful and to remember to check their work before taping the boxes." There has been no special training for Victor, it is all on the job experience and a bit of personal experience because he used to be in their shoes. Victor, part of the family since 1984, is more than a manager to his team. He frequently helps his crew with minor maintenance or technology problems they have at home and does it not just voluntarily but nonchalantly. Stride is grateful to have Victor as part of their management team.







