



REVEL



MISSION

REVEL is the bridge to adulthood for people with autism to live meaningful, enriched lives.

VISION

Life Without Limits.

PURPOSE

Our purpose is to fight potential isolation, depression, unemployment, and risk factors related to quality of life. We do this by providing therapeutic and natural opportunities to teach life skills that enhance the lives of teens and adults with autism, encouraging them to reach their fullest potential.

REV UP

A new program for REVEL.

(REVEL's Educational and Vocational
Upward Placement program)

OUR PROGRAM WILL:

- Challenge stereotypes by taking a multi-pronged approach to employment opportunities in Denver.
- Provide opportunities for people with I/DD to learn the skills they need to obtain and maintain employment by implementing a nationally recognized employment curriculum.
- Supplement what the state provides for services through DVR to develop lifelong, transferable skills that will support clients to not just get a job, but to build a vision for their future.
- Build long lasting relationships with employers in the Denver area where person centered training, disability awareness, and diverse hiring practices are the norm.
- Challenge the stigma currently held by many employers when hiring neurodiverse individuals
- Train and coach employers to recognize the strengths this population can bring to their organizations, helping them to design and implement strategies to best serve their autistic/I/DD employees.

This will result in higher staff retention, opportunities for growth, and positive relationships among staff and employees with I/DD.

The **REV UP** program is a multifaceted approach to autism employment.



The REV Up Transition Program:

A direct instruction and hands on training program using the industry recognized First Pace program curriculum. This curriculum will address lifelong, transferable skills such as: personal development, career planning, life coaching, job search, job coaching, and ongoing workplace support that aim to help participants secure stable, gainful, and meaningful work that includes room for continued growth and development.



The REVEL Business Consultation & Recruitment Program:

Works directly with businesses and unions to identify opportunities within their industries and workplaces for hiring people on the spectrum and help them connect with good candidates for the job. A consultant panel of neurodiverse individuals will help companies streamline their hiring and training practices and help identify cost effective ideas and solutions to ensure long term success for autistic and I/DD employees.



The REVEL Retail Space

A commercial space on the first floor of our building in the RiNo neighborhood. We plan to install a commercial space (coffee, cookies, baked goods) that would serve as a hands-on public facing training facility for our REVEL participants to gain experience in customer service, practice transferable job skills, and build a resume. This space can also serve as a training platform for company managers and supervisors to learn best practices in training and communicating with a neurodiverse workforce. We are currently looking for a partner(s) that are interested in participating in this opportunity.

The Need:

**Sources available upon request*

The need for vocational and life long learning services for adults with I/DD and autism is rising and services and supports are lacking. There are many systemic barriers to receiving quality, long-term, holistic services for I/DD adults combined with a demand for employers to become more aware of the needs of neurodiverse employees; both must be addressed in order to create long term change and successful employment partnerships.

- The cost of caring for Americans with I/DD and autism reached \$268 billion in 2015 and will rise to \$461 billion by 2025 in the absence of more-effective interventions and support across the life span.
- Nearly half of 25-year-olds with autism have never held a paying job, and global estimates range as high as 85 percent unemployment or underemployment.
- Most autistic adults who do get a job earned wages that placed them below the federal poverty line.
- Paid, community-based employment was the least common outcome for adults with autism spectrum disorder (ASD).
- Many adults build their social networks through work and interaction with peers and colleagues. Isolation, depression, and anxiety rise when unemployment and underemployment is the norm for autistic and I/DD adults.
- In addition, the autistic population is "...unfathomably diverse, in terms of skills, interests, and aptitudes," which means that there is a large need for individual and person centered services.
- In a panel discussion run by the Office of Government Accountability on the topic of transition needs and supports for autistic adults, many pointed out the need for society itself to take ownership. Instead of trying to 'fit' neurodiverse employees into society, society must shift.



PARTNER WITH US!

Contact Mark Zoller, program director, at mark@revelinlife.org

- Learn how to create best practices for hiring and onboarding
- Train your staff on working with neurodiverse employees
- Use your business knowledge to help our clients gain meaningful employment
- Join our advisory board
- Help us build a retail space where we employ neurodiverse individuals