



## Volunteer Spotlight

Tony Dasilva and CTE Automotive instructor Bob Puopolo, Sept 2019

A proud 2010 graduate of Somerville High School's Center for Career and Technical Education (CTE), Tony Dasilva has been volunteering for over a decade with CTE's Automotive shop. Tony comes in two or three times every week to work in the shop—organizing and stocking supplies, helping to assemble and fix engines, cleaning equipment and spaces, sweeping, and hanging with staff and students.

Tony's smile and energy fill the room when he talks about his work with Automotive staff and helping out. Tony, who has had cerebral palsy since birth, says that his favorite things to do are running errands, helping to fix engines, recycling, snack time with special treats brought in by staff, and of course, spending time with staff.

"It's a great thing they're doing here and Tony is happy when he comes in," says Tony's mom Joan. "We tried another program [outside of SPS] but Tony didn't feel comfortable there. He knows and trusts staff here, and they truly make him one of the family."

Since 2010 CTE Automotive instructor Bob Puopolo has been Tony's primary connection to his volunteer work. Their special bond is evident as they shared stories, inside jokes and bring up hilarious things they've done in the shop over the years and during field trips.

“It’s been great having Tony here,” Bob shares. “He’s always positive and livens us all up. When Tony started volunteering, I never thought we’d be working with Tony ten years later. He’s a great guy, it’s good for staff and students, and it’s just what we do here.”

To see Tony and Automotive crew in action, you’ll need to visit CTE/Automotive shop: any Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday morning, now temporarily housed in basement at the Edgerly Building, 8 Bonair St., Somerville.