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Helping Bring a Smile to His Community

Montrose local has a strong desire to brighten the lives of others.

Where a positive attitude and hard work meet, you will find Rudy Martinez, a Montrose local and a client of Community Options. Rudy has worked at Burger King in Montrose for the past three decades as a dining room attendant and says he has no plans of slowing down any time soon. “I like to help out people if they need it and greet people at the door,” he said.

Rudy wipes down tables, replaces forks and knives, greets customers, and generally helps out in the dining room area. With the support of his Community Options Job Coach, Rudy is able to work through any problems that may come up at his job and says, “she’s showed me certain ways to do things that make them easier to complete, and sometimes she sees things that need to be improved that I don’t see.”

When asked what he likes best about his job Rudy says, “I like to open doors for people and welcome them. I tell them if they need anything they should not be afraid to ask.” He also says that he really likes talking with people from out of town and welcoming them to the area with a smile and a friendly face.

Rudy has many siblings and is able to live in his own apartment with the support of his family and the Community Options support team. When asked about Community Options Rudy said, “I like the way they help people out. They certainly help me out with things like cooking and cleaning and, you know, I really appreciate it.”

Rudy has an active social life, many interests, and is looking forward to taking a cruise to the Bahamas next spring. Through the “Supported Community Connections” program at Community Options, Rudy is able to spend his time shopping, swimming at the Community Rec Center, and

going to the park in Ridgway. “It’s nice to get out and spend time with friends and other people in the community,” he said.

Rudy’s biggest passion is DJ’ing. He can be found playing music for weddings and potlucks around town under the name *Rockin’ Rudy* and says, “I like to play the oldies but the goodies.” He likes to play things like Hank Williams, Ernest Tubb, Elvis, and Chubby Checker and says, “I like to play music for people because it makes them happy and I like to get ‘em on the dance floor.” Rudy says that his dream job would be as a radio DJ. He said he thinks he would enjoy learning more about it and working at the radio station and talking to people on the radio.

When others are asked what they like about Rudy it becomes apparent that he is well liked and valued by the people who know him. He is hardworking, reliable, professional, polite, kind, supportive, funny, and empathetic and that’s not even the complete list.

Community Options is a non-profit organization that supports persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities in the counties of Montrose, Delta, Gunnison, San Miguel, Ouray and Hinsdale. Donations are graciously accepted to help empower abilities in clients like Rudy and so many others. To donate, visit www.communityoptionsinc.org and click on the “donate” button.

