

Meet Chilton!

My name is Chilton Moralls. I am a gamer, pixel artist, and I love Magic the Gathering. I am also an Autistic adult in the Self Determination Program. I have been a part of the Regional Center traditional program for 17 years. When I was in high school, the traditional regional center services were not meeting my needs. I wanted to learn about social skills, but they wanted me to join groups where the only thing we had in common was Autism. My diagnosis does not define me. I wanted to socialize with people who have common interests with me. I am also a non-traditional student. I was part of a vocational program that taught in a very traditional way, and it was simply not working for me. I was miserable and it was making me feel like a failure.



Since I joined the Self Determination Program, I have been able to use my person-centered plan to help guide my decisions of what I want to do. I am a strong self-advocate and did not want a team of people for my plan. I worked with my close-knit circle of support and created a plan that reflects my wants and needs. This was challenging and exhilarating since many of these

decisions were made for me up until this point. The person-centered plan was a great exercise to help me determine what my self-determined life would look like and not what other's hopes and dreams were for me.

I purchased a bicycle and helmet so I could get out in my community independently. I changed vocational programs and am working with a person who understands my creative process and how I learn. We are working on my portfolio and developing my characters. I am using customized employment to help find a job in the field that I want to work that utilizes my skills and talents while honoring my needs. I have a part time job and have transportation so I can get to work on my own. I have a few personal assistants that drive me to outings. We go out into the community to do the things that I enjoy when I want to do them not on someone else's schedule. I get to choose who to hire so I pick people who have similar interests to me, so we have fun.

I have help setting up, scheduling, and maintaining my Self Determination Program. It is extra work compared to the traditional system. But it has changed my life completely. I love the independence and control it gives me. I am an adult and I have the rights of an adult and I don't need to be fixed. I am living my best self-determined life.

- Chilton Moralls