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Whole Latte Love Cafe

In response to a recent email requesting stories that inspire and educate, I wanted to share why I decided to start a nonprofit in Stark County, OH.

As a mother of someone differently-abled, I became an advocate before I stepped into the Vocational Rehabilitation field; however, looking back at the past 22 years, it all makes perfect sense now because THIS is my purpose. What I learned from the field will help facilitate a path for my daughter and for her peers.

I stepped away from my professional career to develop Whole Latte Love Cafe (WLLC). We organized as a 501(c)(3) in 2017 based upon the lack of supported employment options after high school in Stark County. Although this project turned out to be larger than life, the journey has been so rewarding. The benefits of this cafe are twofold: our training model provides an opportunity for people with disabilities to learn transferable customer service skills and the community discovers the importance of embracing humanity. We believe all people have a right to pursue competitive-integrated employment. Having a job just makes you feel like you matter. WLLC will be a paid vocational training model and is becoming a platform where people with disabilities are seen and heard.

We plan to open in the spring of 2021. Please promote our cause.