

Parks and aspiration: Ashraf Muguluma expands horizons at TILL

Ashraf Muguluma wanted the men he worked with to experience the trip of a lifetime. Mission accomplished.

Toward Independent Living and Learning (TILL) Residential Support Professional Ashraf Muguluma and his supervisor, Residential Coordinator Michelle Lannan, had taken the residents of the TILL home in Littleton, Massachusetts to New York, Vermont and Maine, but this trip would be different: a thirteen-day cross country expedition to national parks including Rocky Mountain in Colorado and Bryce Canyon, Zion and Arches in Utah. By day, Muguluma, Lannan and three residents toured in a TILL van, travelling as much as 13 hours a day. At night, they stayed at Airbnb's. Muguluma documented their trek with video and still photos they compiled into an album of breathtaking images. He would achieve his goal — to give the men he had got to know so well since he joined TILL “an experience they probably never would experience in their lifetime” — and then some.

In 2022, Lannan and Muguluma had taken “the guys” to Acadia National Park. The Maine trip demonstrated that the group could handle long drives but when Muguluma first proposed a two-week, cross-country trip, Lannan was apprehensive. Ultimately, she decided that “if you don't give them the chance to try to see if they're capable of it, you're just failing them from the start.”

Chris, one of the men who has lived at the Littleton residence for more than fifteen years, still asks about that first trip.



Ashraf Muguluma works to expand the horizons of program participants at TILL.

His parents, Liz and Ray Geraneo, said that “it always puts a smile on his face when he sees the pictures of this fabulous trip...the gentlemen at the Littleton house are not just a job for Ashraf. He deeply cares about each of the men.”

Lannan and Muguluma paged through the photo album. “They did well,” she reflected. “Some of the walks we did were challenging but we did it...”

“I was so proud of them,” added Muguluma.

In 2024, the Uganda native was named recipient of the Providers' Council's Gerry Wright Direct Service Employee Award, which he accepted at the Council's Annual Convention and Expo. In December, Muguluma was promoted to the role of Residence Manager at TILL's Littleton home.

“I got to know everything I know now from this house,” he explained. “I feel like it's home.”