

PRIDE

My name is Maria Marotta. I was born in Romania, and I was adopted by an American family when I was 3. Now, I am 21 years old, and I just moved into an apartment, which I share with a roommate. It's my first time away from home.

I'm planning to star as Gabriella in my drama club's version of High School Musical. My favorite thing to do is "bowling and dinner" where a bunch of us go out to eat at a restaurant and then to Cosmic bowling.

Children's is my favorite place, because it's a nice job and a nice hospital. I've worked here for a year, and I restock the medicines and check that the refrigerators and freezers are the temperatures they are supposed to be on my sheet. I like "sharps and gloves" the best, because I get to go in the patients' rooms and remove or restock those supplies.

I work Monday through Friday from 1 to 5. I try to get here early so I can chitchat with my co-workers and ask them what their plans are for the weekend. They treat me well and even threw a party for me so that I could show them my Special Olympics medals. I won a gold, a silver and two bronze for gymnastics last year.

My favorite part of the day is when the clowns come around and juggle balls and play music for the kids. I'm doing just great here.

“ **Children's is my favorite place...** ”

Maria is proud of her new independence and her job as a stocking technician at Children's.

This story was transcribed from an interview with Maria. She came to Children's as an employee through our partnership with ProjectSEARCH, an organization that offers job placement for individuals who are physically or developmentally disabled. Maria completed an internship at a regional hospital and came highly recommended for a job at Children's. While providing a valuable service to the hospital, she is able to earn her own income and is eligible for benefits at Children's. Her co-workers love her sweet nature and her attention to detail. We also like her new glasses.

As told by Maria Morotta, Stocking Technician, 4th Floor MedSurg

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hospitals in the United States”

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