Associates with disabilities are determined to build careers and deliver great customer service.

"Unstoppable" is how Nuni's co-workers describe the 17-year Home Depot veteran. Nuni, who has cerebral palsy, has used a wheelchair all his life. He joined THD in 1997 after hearing great things about the Company. "I wanted to work for a company where I could grow," he said. Since then, he's built up a loyal base of customers who ask for him by name, earning our Customer Service All-Star recognition four times.

Nuni cruises the aisles in a metallic orange power wheelchair bought with help from co-workers and The Homer Fund. He's always on the lookout for customers in need and has a few tricks for delivering excellent service. He stocks his apron with frequently requested Plumbing items: thread-seal tape, pipe cutters and plumbers' putty. He also carries a pen and paper so customers can write down his instructions. "I can write OK, but no one can read it. Like a doctor!" he joked. Nuni has memorized the location and price of almost every product in the store. Plus, he's bilingual — offering assistance in English and Spanish.

"My mom pushed me at a young age to succeed in life," he said. "Now, The Home Depot pushes me to succeed. I couldn't ask for a better company to work for. I know what I know because of the training that I've received at The Home Depot. I work with great people, and they've shown me that you can overcome any obstacle."

"The Home Depot pushes me to succeed."
Ashley had just finished rebuilding her house in Virginia when she was laid off from her previous job. “I went online to pay my Home Depot bill, and I decided to apply for a job,” she said. She interviewed the next day and was hired in phone sales. At that point, she already used a walker to cope with a complicated condition that affects her legs. Two years later, Ashley moved to Nevada and transferred to Store 3302. She now uses a wheelchair to get around. “The Company has been great,” she said. “When I was working at Returns, the store modified the register to make it lower for me.” Ashley has a wheelchair on order that will allow her to raise the chair from a seated to a standing position.

It’s Customers FIRST in every aisle for Ashley, who loves talking to customers. That gregariousness is one reason she was elected Miss Wheelchair Nevada 2013, a title that gives her a platform to spread anti-bullying. “I do work with schools, but it’s also about not bullying yourself and accepting yourself,” she said. “I had to accept my disability. That was hard. The first day I came into the store in a wheelchair, I was embarrassed and in tears.”

The wheelchair has given Ashley the freedom she lacked. “As soon as I sat down, I started to live,” she said. “I can go places I couldn’t before because I couldn’t walk.”

Ashley is currently studying for her accounting degree. “I do a lot,” she said. “Even with my disability, I remodeled a house. I can’t even imagine what I would do if I wasn’t disabled … move a mountain probably.”

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