



## MEET KEENAN

### Pre-Reading Question

- *What transition planning areas outside of employment would be beneficial for students with emotional or social challenges?*

Keenan is a high school student diagnosed with emotional behavior disorder and a learning disability in reading. Keenan has expressed an interest in working as an auto mechanic for his family's business. He is currently completing an internship with a local auto-body shop. Keenan's teacher is thrilled that he has shown so much progress in his work site and feels confident that he will be able to maintain a job at his family's auto mechanic shop. He also plans to live at home and will receive on-the-job training at the shop. During his senior year, Keenan's family brings up a concern that Keenan does not have much social support, and want to identify some ways for him to get out in the community more after he leaves high school. Keenan's teacher says she thinks that Keenan can figure that out on his own after he graduates.

### What's the Problem?

Keenan has very few positive social interactions with his peers and does not have many friends. Since he is working with his family and living at home, he may not have many opportunities for socialization outside of his family after graduating high school. His teacher should help Keenan develop social networks that he can connect to both during and after high school.

### What's the Solution?

Keenan needs more opportunities for socialization. His teacher provides him with information about some of the programs at his local community center. She encourages him to join one that lines up with his interests. He joins a video game club and immediately becomes close with a peer, Steven, who shares an interest in his favorite video game. Steven introduces Keenan to some other friends and helps Keenan navigate interactions with new people. This has helped Keenan make new friends and has helped relieve some of his anxiety about meeting people at work. Getting involved at the community center has given Keenan a social group that he can continue interacting with after he graduates high school.

### Post-Reading Questions

- *Are there any other organizations that Keenan would benefit from participating in?*