

# ***Our Young Man***

*by Paul and Martha Gregory*



**Alan Gregory**

Alan will be 24 in a few weeks.

Alan was in special education from preschool through high school. After high school he was in a post-senior program until he “aged-out” of the school system when he turned 22. The post-senior program was very good. The students were sent to various (unpaid) jobs at local businesses. For example, one job involved sorting out cards of buttons, etc, that customers had put in the wrong place at a fabric store. Another job was cleaning returned DVDs and refiling them at an independent video store. The post-senior program taught the students to use public transportation and coached them on cell phone use in case they got lost.

Alan is now in another program. There is some job training in this program, also. These jobs seem mostly to involve cleaning. Alan also gets a few hours a week with an ILS (Independent Living Skills) instructor. The ILS instructor covers things like money and budgeting, shopping for food, cooking, housecleaning, and hygiene.

We are hoping that Alan will get a job consistent with his abilities. So far Alan has not been very receptive to getting a job, perhaps because he is afraid of the rejection that is an unfortunate part of job hunting.

Alan talks about moving to a place of his own someday. At this point, though, I think that neither he nor we are ready for that.