

## The Lollipop Queen

All hail! Her majesty Darcie Ellis is in the house!



Called the “lollipop queen” by her parents, Darcie has received services from UES for about a dozen years. Her primary job is to restock some of the Unity House lollipop boxes located at businesses around Auburn. She takes great pride in collecting the money each week, restocking the boxes with lollipops, then placing the full boxes back in their proper spots. It wasn’t always this easy.

“Her UES job coach, Dean Tanner, is absolutely wonderful! Darcie is autistic, so she relates well to someone who is soft spoken and gentle,” says her mother Jinny. “Darcie didn’t speak until she was 21 years old. Dean encourages her to be verbal and social. For years, this was very difficult for her but now I can see a real difference. I am very proud of her.”

Dean couldn’t agree more: “I’ve worked with Darcie since 2010, and in just this past year, I have seen a remarkable improvement, which I attribute to her comfort level. Her reactions to change are much better now, and she’s picking up on social cues around her. Her communication skills have improved significantly.”