(Announcer) From NBC News world headquarters in New York. We’re back in a moment here with a company that is combining special needs with special jobs. Tonight as part of our series of reports on what works, a story about those among us with special needs, people with drive and ability who are seldom able to find a good job. A national employer with a big name is out to change that. Our what works report tonight from NBC’s Mika Brzezinski.

(Mika Brzezinski) For Julia Turner, born with Down syndrome, a full-time job might seem out of reach, but not here. [Cheering] I have found what I want, and I’m satisfied...

(Mika Brzezinski) At this new Walgreens distribution center Julia thrives. So does Tommy Watson, Asperger syndrome makes him developmentally disabled in some ways, but when it comes to computers...If there’s a problem who do they call? They call on me-- it's amazing.

(Mika Brzezinski) Walgreens has tapped into the talent of a segment of the population that often struggles to find work. It’s what you do, breathes life into it all.

(Mika Brzezinski) It was company vice president Randy Lewis’ idea. His son Austin has autism. Austin’s gift to me was to look past the disability to see a person.

(Mika Brzezinski) And here Lewis has hired many people. More than 40% of the workers at this warehouse have a disability. The building is designed to accommodate just about anyone with touch screens and flexible work stations. Everybody comes in, everybody works side by side. A leveled playing field. Same pace, same job, same performance. And this set up is also good for business. This distribution center is 20% more efficient than any in the entire company. That’s why other companies are now looking at the Walgreens model, one that’s faster and easier to use. And the payback goes far beyond profitability, because Lewis knows first hand the questions that haunt parents of the disabled. Is that a good plan for you? Of course. What would happen after I’m gone? Can I live that one day longer than my child?

(Mika Brzezinski) For Tommy Watson’s mother, Diane, that question is now answered. I don’t have to have that worry anymore, because he going to be taken care of here. As long as he performs his job and does his best for Walgreens, he’s got a home.
(Mika Brzezinski) A home for Tommy and Julia.

(Driver) Hello, Julia! (Mika Brzezinski) Because now.

(Driver) Did you have a good day? I had a wonderful day.

(Mika Brzezinski) Just about anyone can fit into the Walgreens workforce. Mika Brzezinski NBC News Anderson, South Carolina. There you go, that's our broadcast for this Monday night the second of July. Thank you for being with us. I'm Brian Williams. We'll look for you right back here tomorrow evening. Good night.