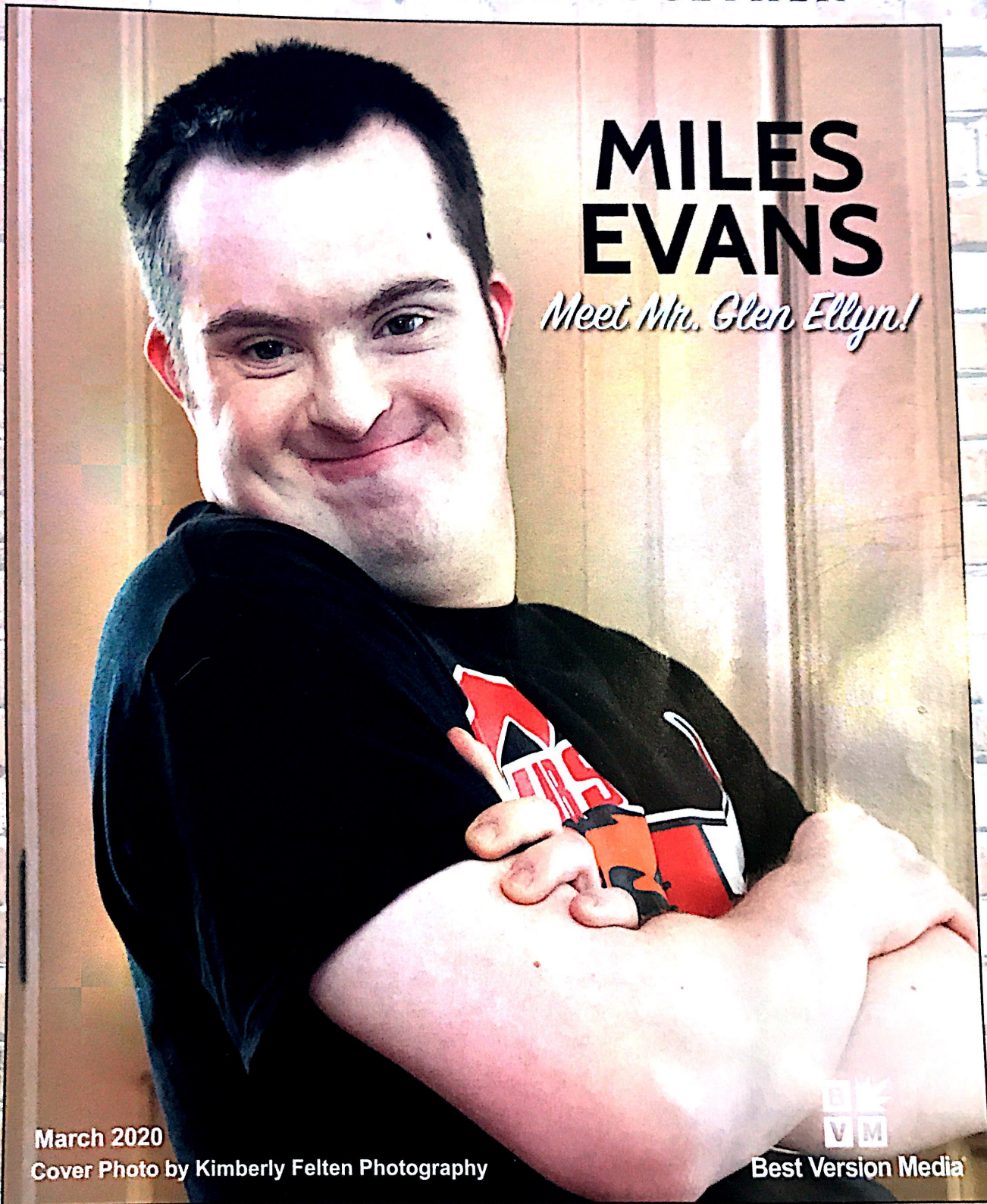


# Neighbors of **GLEN ELLYN**

BRINGING PEOPLE TOGETHER



**MILES  
EVANS**

*Meet Mr. Glen Ellyn!*

March 2020

Cover Photo by Kimberly Felten Photography



Best Version Media

## MEET YOUR NEIGHBORS

make space at the table

# MILES EVANS

Meet Mr. Glen Ellyn!



Miles Evans working at Blackberry Market

Jack, Matt, Nancy,  
Simone, Jim, and Peter

STORY BY TIM RUSSELL PHOTOS BY KIMBERLY FELTEN PHOTOGRAPHY

*We would like to thank Synergy Builders for sponsoring this month's feature.*



Miles Evans, age 20, is a lifelong Glen Ellyn resident and active volunteer in the community. He lives with his parents, Dave & Julie Evans, and has an older brother named Nate who lives in Queens, NY.

Miles graduated from Glenbard West High School in 2018 and currently attends Developmental Education classes through Continuing Education at COD &

District 87's Transition Program. For work, Miles is a busser at Blackberry Market in downtown Glen Ellyn and has been since December of 2018.

### Glen Ellyn Volunteer

Miles has been an avid volunteer since age nine. His initial volunteer gigs at Sunrise Assisted Living of Glen Ellyn, DuPage PADS, & Congregation Etz Chaim allowed him to give back and develop job skills for competitive employment. While his first gigs were selected for him by his parents, in recent years he has started taking the lead in suggesting volunteer gigs based on his interests. He currently volunteers as a member of the Glen Ellyn Lions Club, an usher at McAninch Arts Center, an assistant track coach and assistant scorekeeper for Glenbard West Athletics, and a self-advocate volunteer for National Association for Down Syndrome. World Down Syndrome Day is on March 21, a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the abilities of people like Miles!

Living close to downtown Glen Ellyn and public transportation allows Miles to stretch his independence and do many things on his own like walking to work, restaurants, the library, the barber, the bank, in addition to taking PACE buses and Metra. With Glen Ellyn being so friendly, safe, and walkable, Miles is able to accomplish these things despite some challenges that come with having Down Syndrome. Glen Ellyn very much embraces Miles and Miles is a big fan of his hometown!

### Music

If Miles had a motto, it would be, "Life is better with music!" He'll spend hours in his room listening to music, and is a huge fan of the Beatles. Miles is a classic rock & blues aficionado and especially loves attending live music. The Jazz Up Glen Ellyn Festival is always a highlight of his summer.

Miles's brother Nate is almost eight years older than Miles and helped him to become the music aficionado he is today. Nate is largely responsible for Miles's love for the Beatles and other classic rock and blues and helped him develop his love of live music before he moved away to New York City.

Miles is planning a trip to England within the next couple of years, hoping to visit many Beatles locations in London and Liverpool, to explore more of England's musical history, and to see some live music performances. He is quite the anglophile, especially when it comes to music.

Besides listening to live and recorded music, Miles enjoys making music on his drum and harmonica, reading, following Chicago sports (Blackhawks, Bears, and Cubs), and collecting fun socks.

## Work

Miles landed his first paycheck job in December 2018 at Blackberry Market in downtown Glen Ellyn as a busser. His sociable personality along with volunteer experience, school-related job training, and his own photography business helped him get the job.

## Activities

Miles likes to keep busy with fitness, Special Olympics track (he was also a four-year Glenbard West track athlete), a book club at the Glen Ellyn Public Library, spending time with friends and family, attending overnight summer camp, and exploring his music interests.

## Camp

Miles attends overnight camp in Wisconsin four weeks each summer, and has been going since he was 10 years old. The Evans family is Jewish, and overnight camp is very popular in the Jewish community. Miles's older brother had attended camp and Miles decided that he wanted to as well. After a little searching, his parents discovered Camp Chi (pronounced "shy"). A faith-based camp that integrates spirituality with classic camp activities, it is known as a place that brings together people with and without disabilities. Miles has a wonderful time every year, making lots of friends that he keeps in touch with throughout the rest of the year. Now that he is an adult, he attends the camp in a hybrid role as both a staff member and camper. The experience gives him a lot of independence and helps push the envelope of his problem-solving skills, which is something he embraces.

## Childhood Halloween

"Miles loves Halloween and finds joy in choosing his costume each year," said his mother, Julie. "In 2010, he decided to be a mail carrier. Miles has befriended many carriers around Glen Ellyn, including Dave, our downtown carrier; Pete, his former neighborhood carrier; and Sue, a former postal worker at our downtown Glen Ellyn post office. Each of them generously offered items for Miles to wear for his costume. Sue let him borrow a USPS sweater and name tag. Dave and Pete let Miles borrow a mailbag and personally delivered it to Miles at home in their mail truck! His costume was very authentic and he wore it proudly. The postal workers were thrilled with Miles's costume choice."



## Future Plans

Miles plans to eventually move out of his parents' home into a supported living situation, such as an apartment with a roommate. He is considering getting a second job as well, something that, like his position at Blackberry Market, allows him to interact with the public and practice his excellent social skills. He is always looking toward the future, evaluating what will help him to live the fullest life socially, spiritually, and economically.



Miles at Blackberry Market with his manager, Kathy Stolp



## A Few Evans Family Favorites

Hiking at Morton Arboretum, traveling to NYC, attending monthly Bluesday Tuesday shows at Fitzgerald's in Berwyn, reading biographies aloud together, dining at favorite Glen Ellyn restaurants, and watching Chicago & Glenbard West sports teams.