

Promoting Partnerships and Employment for People with Disabilities

Virginia Board for People with Disabilities and Virginia Commonwealth University,
Rehabilitation Research and Training Center on Workplace Supports and Job Retention

Success Stories

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Jason Wilmoth

Jason was 23 years old and had learning disabilities. He had completed a Clerical certificate program at J. Sargeant Reynolds following training in Materials Management at Woodrow Wilson Rehabilitation Center and graduation from Manchester High School. He typed 41 wpm, knew Windows and MS Office applications, and had an excellent driving record. He was referred to The Choice Group for assistance, indicating that he felt lost and needed help to identify and obtain a career position. He expressed the desire to obtain a full-time position, but was willing to accept a part-time position that had the potential of becoming full-time. He was willing to work in the west end of Richmond or in the downtown area. His stated compensation goal was \$10 per hour and he agreed to a vocational goal of: 1) business environment, 2) Mail Room, or 3) Delivery. As services continued, Jason's interest in helping people in a medical environment would have an impact on his job search. Jason's supports included his mother, his grandmother, people at church and friends. His learning disabilities presented a barrier to employment.

Services started with situational assessments to determine the client's strengths in clerical responsibilities, and he performed well in these. He explored appropriate and relevant career cluster information with his Vocational Counselor to identify additional potential opportunities.

Jason's previous employment included Parts Puller/Cashier at Advance Auto Parts in Midlothian, Tax Screener at the Virginia Department of Taxation, and Office Aide at the Virginia Department of Occupation and Regulation. He had completed an unpaid work experience and seasonal position at the Virginia Department of Taxation, but had not been successful in obtaining permanent employment. His volunteer work for two years as an Emergency Medical Technician, however, along with his communication skills, excellent customer service skills, and superb organizational and planning skills, made him an ideal candidate for a support position in a hospital setting.

A position as Patient Transporter in the Radiology Department at MCV was identified and Jason's Vocational Counselor assisted him in applying for it and preparing for the interview. He was offered the position, which was part-time with a flexible schedule and \$9.32 per hour. It was determined that many employees start in this manner and are moved up to full-time permanent if they excel. He accepted it and worked with the Vocational Counselor off-site and on-site to learn the intricate labyrinth of corridors he would need to know in order to transport patients. The employer would not allow on-site support during work hours with real patients. With assistance and support he learned the hospital environment and how to deal with difficult patients. The excellence of his work was recognized and he was offered a full-time permanent position with state benefits. He has been there for almost two years, is very happy with his career path, and continues to receive support in Long Term Follow Along.

