

***“It’s made a big difference, having purpose in my life.”***

Employment Specialist: Dakota, what were your circumstances prior to employment?

Dakota: I guess I would say pretty bad. I was headed down a dark path; I didn’t have a job, didn’t really know where else to go or what else to do. Mentally, I wasn’t doing very well. I found out about Working Wonders through my counselor and decided to look into it.

Employment Specialist: How did Working Wonders Supported Employment help you?

Dakota: They helped me find a job with a resume. They helped me get more organized and kind of figure out what I wanted to do with my life and job. They helped me work out some problems with employers and talk things through with myself or with family members.

Employment Specialist: Great! And we were able to provide you with transportation to every job activity, such as applying, interviewing and accepting jobs. So you work at Walmart now and have also had a couple jobs before. Can you tell us a little about the jobs that you had through Working Wonders and how they helped you get to this point?

Dakota: Well, the first one was Liberty Tax as a sign waver and that was kind of a filler-type job; it was a more interesting job type and went well. Then I moved on into the job at Sodexo, which was working for the school district with the kids in the lunch room. That went well except some problems with the supervisor. It wasn’t working out.

Employment Specialist: We applied for the Walmart job then and you were able to put in a two week notice at Sodexo, right?

Dakota: Yes. One of the things we are working on now is communication, which is a big issue for me in jobs. Working Wonders is helping me work with a therapist on how to work with other people. It's a process.

Employment Specialist: What difference has having this job made for you in your personal life and career choices?

Dakota: It has made a big difference having a purpose in my life. Having a job is going to help me move out of my aunt's house and into a roommate situation which is a step toward being more independent.

Employment Specialist: That's great that you are able to accomplish some of your goals through supported employment. What are your future plans, long-term?

Dakota: I try not to make plans for the future because they tend to fall apart. So the plan is not horribly complicated: move out of my aunt's, move in with my friend, and keep this job.

Employment Specialist: Basically take it one day at a time?

Dakota: That's the motto I like to follow.