

Marcus K.

Job Success

November 2016

Before I started supported employment I stayed at home all day. I didn't know how to start to get a job. I felt bad that I didn't have a job because everyone around me was working and I wanted to be part of that but I didn't know how and I didn't have the resources. Then I heard about Supported Employment through my mental health therapist. I thought it would be worthwhile to check out.

Supported employment helped me be more assertive and worked on my employment skills. We worked on a resume. It gave me encouragement to work on job search every week. It took over a year to find a job. I went on a lot of interviews and filled out a lot of applications. There were some hopeful times and some times when I was frustrated. The goal of getting a job kept me going.

My job is dishwashing for a catering business.

Since going to work I am more sociable. My job makes me happy. Sometimes when I wake up in the morning I feel depressed but I know my mood will change when I start working.

What I like most about my job is the people I work with. I get along with everyone and we joke around. It makes me feel like I'm more a part of a team than when I first started. I like getting paid and being able to do things I couldn't do before because I didn't have the money. My boss is awesome and they are understanding of my limitations because they always don't want me to overdo and try to do everything. They don't want me to get hurt.

For the future, I plan to stick with the job I have now. I gained more confidence over time and ask my boss for additional shifts when I hear about extra catering events. In a few more years I would like to look for more work opportunities. Right now though, I am very happy with where I'm at.

My family is happy that I am finally working after seven years of being unemployed. The last job I had was I working in a pet store. I also did an internship at Walgreen's for one month. There is hope, keep job searching and even though it feels like it is taking forever, something will come up.

