

Kim: So I'm here with Tina and she's agreed to be so kind as to share her story working with Supported Employment. Thank you Tina again for being willing to do this. So, I'm just going to ask you a few questions that will help you kind of describe your experience with Supported Employment. The first is if you could describe yourself and your circumstance before you started working with Supported Employment?

Tina: Basically I stayed in my bed

Kim: You isolated a lot?

Tina: Yeah

Kim: So you didn't work at all really before?

Tina: No

Kim: Can you tell me a little about what the Supported Employment folks did to help you?

Tina: They helped me socialize and got me a job

Kim: That's great. And you're pretty active at our clubhouse?

Tina: Yes

Kim: And I know everyone there enjoys having you around. Would you tell me a little about what your job is?

Tina: My job? Cleaning the library. Every Saturday in the morning from 8-9.

Kim: Nice. What do you like about that job?

Tina: I love that job!

Kim: You like the library?

Tina: (Laughs happily) Yes!

Kim: Me too! It's one of my favorite places...it's so quiet. And now I know why it's looks so nice and tidy! Because you are cleaning it up every week.

Tina: (Laughs again)

Kim: What's changed for you since you started working?

Tina: I'm less isolated

Kim: More circles of people you know

Tina: Yes

Kim: Do you work with other folks when you do that job?

Tina: No I'm alone, I'm the only one in there in the morning. I get in and out.

Kim: That's nice to have something that you know you are going to do every week. What are some of the things you like most about doing that job?

Tina: I get satisfaction out of doing something

Kim: That's great. Can you tell me a little bit about what your plans are for the future?

Tina: I'm going back to school to get my GED and become a Peer Specialist.

Kim: That's so great! I know I'm really looking forward to going to that training with you. I think you are really going to like it. I'm excited. So what do your friends and family think about you working?

Tina: They're iffy about it?

Kim: How come?

Tina: Because they're afraid I'm going to lose my benefits if I work more than what I'm doing now

Kim: You've probably met with someone here about that?

Tina: Yes

Kim: And you've been shown that's not really going to happen, that you can work and have your benefit

Tina: Right

Kim: It's hard though, you know, people just worry about you and they want to kind of protect you

Tina: (Giggles)

Kim: Is there anything else you would want to share about your experience here or about working?

Tina: The crew is great

Kim: Thank you. Anything you'd want to tell someone else that's considering going to work that is kind of unsure?

Tina: After the nervousness it's better

Kim: Yeah, I think so too. Well, again thank you for taking some time to do this and sharing with us, it's really helpful to other people to hear from someone who has kind of been through the same thing, so yeah, really cool.

Tina: (Giggles)