

MY SUCCESS STORY BY MICHELE LAMB

Before I was referred into Supported Employment Program at Mid-Columbia Center for Living I was very depressed. I had no self-worth and I believed I would never amount to anything. When I started in SE program they stuck by me even when I canceled appointments. Cheryl (supported employment specialist) brought my self-esteem up. The SES team stayed Persistent with me and never gave up on me.

When I started SE program I obtained part-time employment in less than a month at Wendy's. This was a maintenance position to pay my bills. I obtained 4 more jobs all were part time and not what I really wanted to do. April 1, 2015 I got hired at Mid-Columbia Center for Living as a Peer Cottage Coordinator. This was what I wanted to do (chosen career goal), but it was also part time. I told Cheryl (SES) I wanted to do full time employment in mental health field.

On January 17, 2017 I was hired by Mid-Columbia Center for Living as an Adult Wraparound Peer Partner. I get to share my lived experience with other people, I also get to be supportive and help advocate for others. This makes me feel better about myself.

Since this position is full time with benefits I am able to support my family now. I also qualify for PER's benefits. This year I have been having yearly checkups, dental care, and focusing on being healthy. I am looking into a 457b fund to have extra retirement.

My future plans are to stay employed with Mid-Columbia Center for Living and work on getting my QMHA.

My Family and friends have been very supportive. They all know they can borrow money from me now. 😊

I would like to share how thankful I am to work for Mid-Columbia Center for Living. I always wondered why I had to go through all the hardships I went through. I know now it was so I can help other people with my lived experiences.