

Supported Employment, a Success Story

Working does Wonders!

Work Participant ~ Ronni
Employment Specialist ~ Victoria
IPS Program ~ Working Wonders

When I came to Working Wonders, “I was terrified. I was homeless, I was separated from my son which caused a lot of anxiety. I was timid and just lost.”

Started up with Working Wonders “opened so many doors that I didn’t know were there. I received an astronomical amount relief because...the support took the pressure off and provided me with the validation I needed.”

Through the traditional career profile and identifying strengths and skills, the employment goal of Peer Support Specialist was selected. Partnering with Vocational Rehabilitation, Ronni was provided with free training in peer support and became registered with the State of Oregon. Ronni opened with Working Wonders in August of 2017 and by December of the same year she was hired as a Resident Manager with a recovery program. Ronni states that, through this job, “knowing I make a difference helping people...has built my self-confidence back up.” “I feel like I am accomplishing things and have validation that I am good at something...plus working gives me a sense of security. I am able to maintain my phone and my rent... My family is so proud of me and I am receiving a lot of positive feedback. My sister says she admires me for what I do.”

Ronni wants to share: “just how grateful I am for these programs; I don’t know where I would be without them. My gratitude is infinite for these programs and I am humbled to be a part....” Ronni graduated from Working Wonders at the end of August 2018 and now she serves consumers as a Peer Support Specialist in an A&D Recovery program. “I was very shriveled at the beginning (before employment), now I can look towards having a future that is safe (through employment).”