

Success Story

Mid-Columbia Center for Living

Today I am writing to share a recent success story for the Supported Employment program. This individual started working with Supported Employment in November of 2018; they were working as a Night Auditor at a Gorge Area hotel and required little employment support in the position they held. They had maintained this employment for almost eight years on their own, but were feeling depressed and separated from the rest of the world working an overnight shift and sleeping during the day.

The Employment Specialist (ES) worked with the individual for about 11 months and knew their employment goal was to find a full-time day shift position, equal to current wages, with benefits. Their hope was that they would find employment that was different from the work they had been doing for most of their working career. They wanted a change and a challenge to learn something new. They desired to feel more “complete” and a part of the “Day Walkers.” Their ES referred this individual to Vocational Rehabilitation Services (VR), a Community Partner that assists individuals with barriers to employment to attain their goals. Together the ES and VR Counselor worked to support this individual to look for and apply for employment with another local state agency.

This individual graduated from VR in December 2019, being 90 days successfully employed. They have a new state job with great benefits, wages, a Monday - Friday schedule and are continually learning new aspects of their employment. This employment opportunity has left this individual feeling accomplished, challenged and among the “day walkers.”