

The following describes George before coming to supported employment, his employment pursuit and success – direct quotes and paraphrased from his words.

George described situational circumstances *before* coming to supported employment:

“ . . . living at a group home with limited liberties, unemployed, receiving SSI with a payee, broke – tight budget, smoking, no structure-no routine and fishing as often as I could.” Due to George wanting to improve and gain independence, he determined it was time to find a job. Once assigned to a supported employment specialist, “. . . I was actively looking for a job, meeting with employers, getting up early, dressing appropriately and getting back into a routine.”

Once George was hired, his idea of self positively changed; working in produce for a local grocery store, “. . . talking with customers and feeling confident.” George has been gainfully employed since 2013, and transitioned to working at Walmart in 2014. George describes what has changed: “. . . a whole lot, I have a car, independent living, household possessions, gained responsibility, I am my own payee.” George’s plan for the future includes continuing to work at Walmart (part-time) and working as a peer support specialist. George’s offers that his family believes that going back to work “. . . [is] the best thing that ever happened.”