

Employment First

In Erie County

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Working Proud - An Article from Goodwill

The following story was submitted by local job coach Sue Stout.



Mario began working for Goodwill Industries of Erie, Huron, Ottawa and Sandusky Counties, in

April 2010. As Mario worked for Goodwill, his responsibilities developed and so did his work skills. Soon he proved he had the capability to learn the job as a material handler for the Goodwill Day Habilitation. Mario demonstrated the use of a pallet jack and a hand cart which he used to move pallets for large empty cardboard boxes to sit on to be filled with textiles.

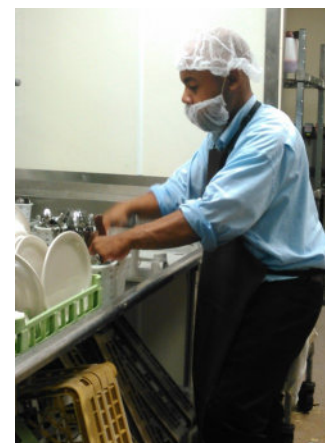
As Mario developed and learned new job tasks, he realized he wanted to get a job in his community. Mario had acquired strong work ethics working at Goodwill like showing up to work early,

staying focused when working, and getting along with coworkers and his supervisors. Mario knew he was ready to work in the community.

In June 2015, Mario started working with his job developer to find a job in the community. Mario and his job developer created a resume, applied to community jobs, and strengthened Mario's phone and interviewing skills. In his first two (2) months of job development, Mario applied to eight (8) potential employers advertising for food preparation and serving related jobs. On July 21, 2015, Mario was interviewed and hired as a dishwasher at Cracker Barrel Restaurant. Mario gave his two (2) weeks notice to Goodwill, with heavy heart but with anticipation for his new found job.

Mario has completed his first year working at Cracker Barrel restaurant, in Sandusky. He is well on his way towards his second year as a dishwasher at the restaurant. Mario loves working at Cracker Barrel. He

gives 110% at work and is willing to work overtime or come in early for his shift or for a coworker. Mario has taken on a leadership role as he trains the new dishwashers. Mario schedules his transportation and arrives to work independently. Mario receives follow-along services as needed to help handle any issues that arise and to provide supports to help retain his job. Mario has a good sense of humor and a positive outlook as he has taken a huge step to community employment. Mario is a polite and social gentleman who sought the opportunity to become what matters most to him, to be an active part of his community. Mario has many friends and family that support him and his many achievements as he goes through his journey of life.



Community Safety Training - Across Ohio

As the conversation across the state turn more towards community employment and community engagement families ask about safety. The Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities in partnership with Employment First and the Center for Disability Employment have developed a training program called *Speak Up, Stay Safe: Community Health and Safety Training*.

This training will be offered across

the State of Ohio throughout 2017. Topics of the training include healthy relationships and boundaries, bullying, harassment, alcohol/drugs, online safety and more. Those attending the session will learn about materials, resources, identifying and reporting abuse and empowerment. This training is taught by Ohio STIR trainers and is specifically designed for people with developmental disabilities.

In addition to training for individual the state will also host sessions for parents, family members, providers and other professionals. Please consider learning more by visiting the website www.disabilityempowerment.net

Upcoming trainings:

Family Training - April 4, 2017. 1:00-4:30pm at 1154 Larc Lane Toledo.

Individual Training - April 25, 2017. 9:30- 4:30pm (same location).

Promoting Community Employment - DODD Numbers



Department of Developmental Disability has shared some employment statics for the first quarter of 2017.

Happily, it appears more people are working in the community. Quarter 1 in 2016 showed 8,375 people working in the community. This is now up to 8,941 people. This is close to a 7% increase of people with disabilities working across the state. DODD further reports,

“people participating in (community employment) work an average of 19 hours per week and earn on average \$8.73 per hour.” This wage is comparably higher than those working in a sheltered workshop. These workers average just \$3.52 per hour and work an average of 13 hours per week.

The DODD report can be found online at <http://dodd.ohio.gov/NewsRoom/Documents/Scorecard%202017%20Q1.pdf>.

Locally we have witnessed our own increase of individuals working in the community. In the first (1st) quarter of 2016, there were 74 people working in the community. By the fourth (4th) quarter that number increased to 84 people. This is nearly a 14% increase! With nearly 80 people self-identifying as wanting to work, these increases in community employment leave job seekers optimistic!

Upcoming Events and Training Opportunity

Self-Advocates of Erie County Meeting 02/06/17 4pm-5:30pm ECBDD

Join the local self-advocacy group and learn about all upcoming events and opportunities. March will feature the first statewide advocacy awareness week. Come and help us plan this event! Meetings are open to all!

Hot Topics: Behavior Supports & Interventions. 02/28/17 6-7:30pm EHOVE Building A Room 101

Mary Sentelle (Dynamic Pathways) will provide practical tips at providing positive interventions to help understand and avoid inappropriate behaviors in different settings.

Upcoming EVENTS

Family Information Network. 02/08/17 6-7:30pm. ECBDD

The Family Information Network (FIN) is a chance for families and caregivers to meet and share resources. Every month we feature a new speaker and topics based on the group's request. In February we will learn about finding a provider.

Lifebook - You Try It!

Last newsletter you heard about the 2016 Transition Weekend and the new tool called a “Lifebook”. The “Lifebook” is a book you can use to begin to think about and show what you want in your own life. Below you will find one of the many activities in the Lifebook. This featured activity is from Chapter 2 *Knowing Your Community and Networks*. Take a few minutes and complete the activity for yourself. Feel free to share you finished “community” and it may be posted on our Facebook page for everyone to see!

Directions:

Every community has things to make it special and unique. Use the pages below to draw or paste what your community looks like to you!



Employment First In Erie County

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Employment is not a
program. It's an outcome



Erie County Board of Developmental Disabilities



Supporting People To: Live • Learn • Earn

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