



# Arkansas Rehabilitation Services Success Stories

*March/April 2026*



## ARS SUCCESS STORIES

### Riley Pyeatt

Riley began working with Arkansas Rehabilitation Services (ARS) while still in high school through transition services, with the goal of continuing services after graduation. One of Riley's primary goals was to obtain a driver's license. ARS first assisted Riley in earning a learner's permit through ACDC and later supported driving instruction through Driving Academy of NWA. Today, Riley is a licensed driver and ready to move forward on the highway of life—pursuing training and employment opportunities with greater independence and confidence.



When asked to reflect on their experience, Riley shared: "Working with Arkansas Rehabilitation Services has helped me make progress toward goals that once felt overwhelming. With your support, I was able to obtain my driver's license, take concrete steps toward employment, and begin planning for college. Having consistent guidance, encouragement, and access to resources made a real difference in my confidence and ability to move forward. I'm very grateful for the support I've received, and for the role ARS has played in helping me build independence and prepare for my future."



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### Dante Barr

Dante Barr successfully achieved his goal of becoming a truck driver with the support of Arkansas Rehabilitation Services. Through the program, he attended truck driving school and received the training needed to earn his Commercial Driver's License (CDL). With guidance and encouragement throughout the process, Dante remained focused and successfully completed his training. In April 2025, Dante earned his CDL and began working with EquipmentShare. He reports that he truly enjoys his new career path and values the opportunity to continue learning new skills while building a stable future. Dante shared that the support he received made a meaningful difference in helping him reach his goal. His success highlights how Arkansas Rehabilitation Services helps individuals gain the training, confidence, and support needed to achieve meaningful employment.





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### Desteni Tinzie

Desteni's journey is a powerful example of what dedication, education, and perseverance can achieve. After earning her Bachelor of Arts in Agricultural, Food, and Life Sciences from the University of Arkansas, she set her sights on building a meaningful career in agriculture—one that would support farmers and strengthen communities across the state. Three years ago, Desteni began her professional career with the University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture. For the past two years, she served at the U of A Soil Testing Lab in Lee County, where she analyzed soil samples and provided accurate data to support crop production decisions. Her attention to detail, technical skills, and commitment to excellence made her a dependable and valued team member. Throughout her time in Lee County, Desteni demonstrated professionalism, reliability, and a strong desire to grow. She built productive working relationships, adapted to evolving responsibilities, and contributed to delivering timely, research-based recommendations to Arkansas producers. Her hard work did not go unnoticed. On February 2, 2026, following her final day in Lee County on January 30, Desteni earned a promotion within the same organization, transitioning to St. Francis County. This advancement reflects her technical expertise, leadership potential, and dedication to serving agricultural communities. Desteni's story highlights the value of higher education, persistence, and professional growth. Her promotion marks an exciting new chapter and positions her to continue making meaningful contributions. Desteni's success is a testament to what is possible when preparation meets opportunity.





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### Michael Pack

Michael Pack works as a delivery driver for NAPA Auto Parts in Mountain Home, where he puts in twenty-four hours each week to supplement his Social Security income. He genuinely enjoys his job and takes pride in making a difference for customers who rely on timely parts to keep their vehicles—and their livelihoods—running smoothly. ARE staff says working with Michael has been a true pleasure due to his easy-going nature and positive outlook on life. With the help of hearing aids, he has gained greater confidence and productivity at NAPA. He also shares that his wife especially appreciates the ability to turn the TV down with the remote. Michael is deeply grateful to Arkansas Rehabilitation Services for their support, which has made a meaningful impact on both his work and home life.





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### **Timothy Spatafora**

Timothy and his wife are the main providers for their wheelchair-bound granddaughter. He and his wife are a loving and supportive couple, and Timothy wanted certification to provide the best of care as he expresses the love only grandparents can provide. He now works as her personal care aid through



Myers-Davis Life Coaching & Disability Services. He expressed that this is a great privilege and that the knowledge, time, and certification Arkansas Rehabilitation Services helped him establish mean she will thrive in their family and enjoy a better life. What a great opportunity for ARS to play a small part in the transformation of this family. One never knows the lasting impact they can have, but it is greatly expressed in Timothy's personal and work life, so that each day is more enjoyable than they ever thought possible.



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### **Stephanie Fiorito**

Stephanie is a dedicated manager at a busy retail store who takes pride in supporting both her team and her customers. Over time, however, she noticed that it was becoming increasingly difficult to hear important information and respond to others in a meaningful way—both at work and at home. This challenge began to affect her confidence and her ability to engage in daily interactions fully. Seeking a solution, Stephanie reached out to

ARS for assistance. Through their support and guidance, she was able to access the services she needed to obtain hearing aids. With this new technology, Stephanie quickly experienced a positive change in her life. Today, Stephanie shares her delight in the services she received. Her hearing aids have greatly improved her ability to communicate, helping her stay connected with her coworkers, customers, friends, and family. She also reports feeling safer and more stable as she navigates her work and home environments. Thanks to the support of Arkansas Rehabilitation Services, Stephanie continues to thrive in her role as a manager—confident, engaged, and better equipped to interact with the world around her.





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### **William Robinson**

Mr. Robinson began noticing consistent difficulty hearing everyday conversations. He frequently asked others to repeat themselves, especially in work settings and environments with background noise. Family members observed that he was increasing the television volume to levels that were uncomfortable for others and often misheard important details during conversations. He scheduled an appointment with an audiologist and completed a comprehensive hearing evaluation. The results showed age-related hearing loss. Based on the findings, the audiologist recommended bilateral hearing aids to improve speech clarity and overall hearing function. After being fitted with properly calibrated hearing aids, he attended follow-up appointments to ensure the devices were adjusted to his specific needs. Within weeks, measurable improvements were observed. He was able to participate in conversations without repeatedly asking for clarification. Communication became smoother, and he re-engaged in social activities he had previously avoided due to hearing difficulties. He reported increased confidence in work settings and a better ability to follow conversations in both quiet and moderately noisy environments. Consistent daily use of the hearing aids, combined with routine maintenance and periodic audiology check-ups, contributed to sustained improvement. His overall quality of life improved as a direct result of restored access to clear communication, which allowed him to maintain employment at Post Acute Medical. Mr. Robinson expressed his appreciation for ARS and his counselor for their guidance and assistance in obtaining hearing aids.





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### Skylar Vincent

Skylar began working with ARS while in high school through transition services, participating in work-based learning experiences in the WOLF program.

Skylar chose to continue services after high school graduation. Skylar attended Project Search, and before graduation, he was offered and he accepted employment with Compass Group as a janitor working at his El Dorado High School. Skylar stated that the WOLF program helped him become familiar with navigating the entire high school building to complete his job duties as a

WOLF student. This experience has made him confident and familiar with his current job duties. Skylar said that Project Search was very helpful to him when he needed help completing applications during his job search. Skylar stated that overall, he is very happy with the services that he has received from Arkansas Rehabilitation Services (ARS). Skylar said that some days are harder than others as he continues to learn his job duties, but most days, things tend to go smoothly.

