



Arkansas Division of
Workforce Services

Arkansas Rehabilitation Services

ARS Success Stories

May 2023

Dominic Trotter



Through ARS's Pre-ETS program, Dominic Trotter has been learning the skills necessary to gain employment. Since August 2022, he has been working after school with the janitorial staff at Pea Ridge High School. Despite initially feeling a bit intimidated, Dominic quickly adapted to his new environment and soon found himself feeling right at

home.

As part of his new role, Dominic was responsible for a range of tasks, including changing trash, sweeping floors, and cleaning debris. At first, he had struggled a bit to keep up with everything, but thanks to the support of his job coach, he was quickly able to build up his skills and confidence.

Before long, Dominic had mastered all his duties and could complete them without any help. He was grateful to his job coach for all their support and guidance and was excited to take on his next challenge - becoming a full-time custodial staff member for Pea Ridge School District!



Arkansas Division of
Workforce Services

Arkansas Rehabilitation Services

ARS Success Stories

May 2023

Jerry Weston

Jerry Weston, an assembler at Tractor Supply Co., had been struggling with moderate to severe hearing loss for quite some time. It was beginning to affect his ability to communicate efficiently in the workplace. While searching for solutions to his hearing loss problem, he came across Arkansas Rehabilitation Services. After a quick consultation, Jerry was introduced to an empathetic and solution-driven counselor.



Jerry and his counselor worked to understand the extent of his hearing loss and create a plan to address the issue. They discussed his work environment, the challenges he faced, and strategies to overcome them. The ARS staff worked hand in hand with a vendor to identify the best hearing aid devices. With the development of a comprehensive plan, the counselor quickly contacted the vendor and authorized the purchase of the hearing aids.

With his hearing aids in place, Jerry could maintain full-time employment and lead a healthy and fulfilling life. He says the hearing aids have made a world of difference at his job and home. He is very grateful to the staff at ARS.



Arkansas Division of
Workforce Services

Arkansas Rehabilitation Services

ARS Success Stories

May 2023

Kaitlyn Hawkins

Kaitlyn Hawkins' journey to becoming a Registered Nurse is a testament to her determination. Despite her Scoliosis and ADHD, she never let these conditions get in the way of her dreams. In 2014, she came to Arkansas Rehabilitation Services to help her further her education after high school.

With the guidance of her counselor, Kaitlyn was able to overcome her limitations and achieve successful employment as an LPN in June 2019 after studying at Indian Capital Technology Center in Sallisaw, Oklahoma. Two years into her career, she decided to pursue her RN licensure. It was not an easy road, as she had developed an additional anxiety disorder, but with lots of studying, she completed RN training at North Arkansas Community College in December 2022.

On January 4, 2023, Kaitlyn passed her NCLEX examination on the first try and officially became a Registered Nurse. She now works at Mercy Hospital in Booneville, Arkansas. With this new credential, she has increased her knowledge and doubled her hourly wage.

Congratulations, Kaitlyn, on your incredible success. We are so proud to have supported you through all your accomplishments and can't wait to see what else the future holds for you!





Arkansas Division of
Workforce Services

Arkansas Rehabilitation Services

ARS Success Stories

May 2023

Lia Childress

Determined to pursue her dreams of becoming a professional counselor, Lia Childress came to ARS looking for tuition assistance. She applied to the University of Arkansas to complete her master's degree in counseling.

After some initial setbacks, Lia was finally granted the necessary financial aid to start her studies in February 2020. Despite the challenges brought on by the pandemic, Lia excelled in her studies, demonstrating her strong work ethic and unwavering dedication to her chosen profession. She never achieved less than a B in any of her classes and completed her degree with a 3.8 GPA.



Lia's hard work paid off, and upon graduation, she found employment at Eason Counseling and Associates, specializing in transracial adoption, depression, and ADHD, among other things.

When asked about working as an established professional counselor, Lia said, "As a new therapist, I am eager to embark on the fulfilling journey of helping others from all walks of life. My top priority as a therapist is the well-being of my clients, and I am dedicated to creating a safe and nurturing space for everyone who walks through my door. I want my clients to feel supported and understood, no matter their personal background, race, ethnicity, or cultural history."



Arkansas Division of Workforce Services

Arkansas Rehabilitation Services

ARS Success Stories

May 2023

Robert Rawls Sr.



When Robert Rawls, Sr. found himself looking for employment, a friend suggested he contact Arkansas Rehabilitation Services. He had experience working as a utility clerk at Kroger for four years, as well as seven years spent throwing papers as a deliveryman. ARS immediately began helping him with job placement, even offering him a choice of vendors. He selected

Ed Davis JOBS and found himself working at Park Plaza as a housekeeper.

After a year at Park Plaza, Robert came back to ARS to once again seek job placement assistance. He selected Crimson Health Services as his vendor this time around and is now happily employed as a Puller at Good Will on Cantrell. He also receives one-on-one job coach assistance one day a week, and he's learning the duties of his job very well.

When asked about his experience working with ARS, Robert said he would recommend services to others. Thanks to the guidance and support of Arkansas Rehabilitation Services, he has finally found his footing in the workforce.



Arkansas Division of
Workforce Services

Arkansas Rehabilitation Services

ARS
Success Stories
May 2023

Steve Hargrove

When Steve Hargrove heard that new certifications were being required for welding inspectors, he found himself at a significant disadvantage in hiring opportunities. He had worked for Cleveland Integrity Services and Ensign as a welder and then as a welding inspector, but the new requirements allowed companies to hire one person to do both jobs. This left Steve unemployed and searching for a new job.

Instead of allowing his lack of education to hold him back, Steve came to Arkansas Rehabilitation Services and requested additional training with the Association for Materials Protection and Performance, Inc. (AMPP). The training he received included Basic Coatings Inspector Theory Exam and Ethics for the Corrosion Professional.

After passing both certifications with flying colors, Steve updated his resume and certifications and received two job offers on the same day. Now, he's happily working for Whitco as a Welding Inspector in Utah.