



Arkansas Division of  
**Workforce Services**

Arkansas Rehabilitation Services

# ARS Success Stories

*December 2023*

## Cade Johnson



Cade Johnson was a client of Arkansas Rehabilitation Services (ARS) who had a diagnosis of scoliosis. After learning about ARS, he was quickly connected with a Vocational Rehabilitation counselor who worked with him to determine eligibility and complete the necessary steps to help him obtain and maintain full-time employment. The counselor

and client collaborated to identify challenges and develop solution strategies to ensure Cade could find success. ARS also partnered with a vendor to provide the training he needed, and upon completion, Cade was able to start his career as a Welder with Thompson Construction Group.





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## **Denisha Campbell**

Through Arkansas Rehabilitation Services' small business program, Denisha Campbell was not only able to fulfill her dream of running her own salon, but also created opportunities for other licensed professionals in the industry by offering booth rentals in her space. In doing so, she turned her business into a hub for service providers to grow their own businesses while contributing to the local economy.

Denisha's journey is an inspiration for many. Despite her disability, she achieved independence and fulfilled her ambition of starting a business that caters to a diverse customer base. Her venture provides evidence that a business can be both inclusive and profitable, by acknowledging and serving the beauty needs of both men and women, something that is often overlooked in the beauty industry.



Her bravery to venture into the entrepreneurial world despite her disability and the associated challenges is a reminder that with the right support and perseverance, we can all make our dreams a reality.



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## **Greg Duckworth**

Greg Duckworth first heard about Arkansas Rehabilitation Services while he was a student at Walnut Ridge High School. After graduating in May 2023, he was ready to pursue his dream of becoming a Welder.

With the help of ARS, Greg enrolled in a vocational training program at Black River Technical College for Structural Steel and Pipe Welding. He completed his training on October 27th and received glowing reviews from his instructors for his dedication and punctuality.

Greg landed an interview with Big River Steel Plant on October 30<sup>th</sup>. Despite feeling discouraged after his interview, Greg was pleasantly surprised to receive a call offering him a position. He started work the very next day at a wage of \$28 an hour, working 50 hours a week with full benefits.

Greg showed his gratitude for his counselor and the entire experience by saying “Mr. Lloyd, I am so thankful for you. I could not have done this without all your help and Arkansas Rehabilitation. Thank you so much!”



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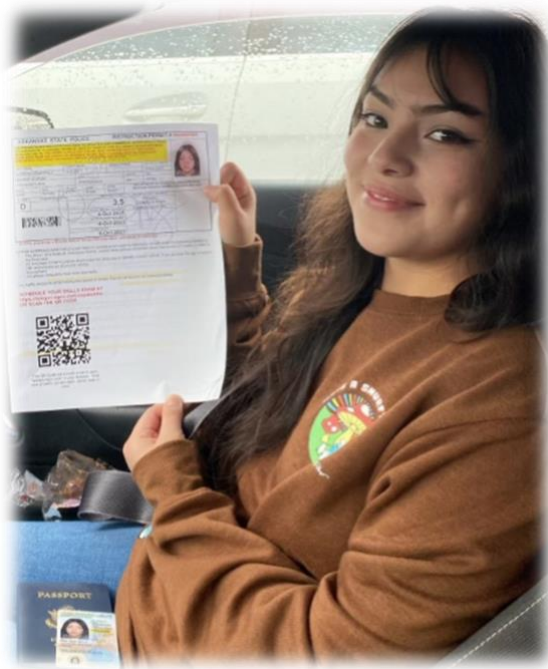
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## Mirian Barroso

Mirian Barroso took her first step towards independence in June 2023 when she enlisted the assistance of Arkansas Rehabilitation Services. With the support of ARS and ACDC's Driver Ed I program; she successfully obtained her Learner's Permit.



Mirian's journey doesn't stop there; she currently attends NWACC and has ambitions of transferring to the University of Arkansas-Fayetteville to pursue her passion for becoming a Social Worker.

It is truly inspiring to witness her pride in this achievement and the eagerness she feels to embark on her driving journey. Mirian extends her heartfelt gratitude towards ARS for their unwavering assistance in this significant milestone. She looks forward to continuing her progress towards independence with the support of ARS.



## **Tanisha Stokes**

In 2013, Tanisha Stokes faced a life-altering diagnosis of Crohn's Disease, also known as IBD. The condition significantly impacted her daily life, transforming her from a hard worker who cared for her family, to someone constantly battling illness who had to miss work. The debilitating symptoms prevented her from sustaining long work hours.

While trying to balance health and professional aspirations, a friend recommended Arkansas Rehabilitation Services. Through ARS, Tanisha was paired with a compassionate counselor who wanted to help support her dreams. With their guidance, Tanisha was introduced to UALR's small business department, where she harnessed her entrepreneurial spirit and crafted a comprehensive business plan.

ARS's small business board found favor in Tanisha's plan, confirming its feasibility. The support she received from ARS in acquiring essential tools and providing booth rental assistance served as the catalyst for her success.

Now, equipped with all the necessary resources, Tanisha is a resilient small business owner who runs Stokes Hair Care inside Solar Solan, specializing in natural hair and hair care products. When asked about her experience, Tanisha said, "I thank ARS for helping me in the past few years. I had a great experience and have received a lot of resources to help me continue to help my small business succeed."

