



Arkansas Division of
Workforce Services

Arkansas Rehabilitation Services

ARS
Success Stories

May/June 2024

Birletha Moore



At 42 years old, Birletha Moore was diagnosed with Manic Depression, which posed challenges in finding stable employment. However, through perseverance, support, and effective communication, she overcame these barriers and took control of her life.

Now, at the age of 62, Ms. Moore sought assistance from Arkansas Rehabilitation Services (ARS). Working with a vocational rehabilitation counselor, they crafted her Individual Plan of Employment (IPE), intending to secure a job.

With the counselor's guidance, Ms. Moore was referred to New Direction Employment Network for Job Placement Services. Successfully placed by New Directions, she secured a position at Le'Feather Home Care as a Personal Care Attendant in October 2023 and has since maintained steady employment.

Reflecting on her experience with ARS, Birletha describes their services as excellent.



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Queen Childs

Queen Childs, a native of Blytheville, Arkansas, grew up feeling special thanks to the love and attention from her family. Her upbringing shaped her personality and instilled a positive outlook on life.

Despite facing challenges with learning and comprehension in school, Queen participated in the Pre-ETS program through Arkansas Rehabilitation Services (ARS) in her junior and senior years. The program helped her gain valuable work skills.

After graduating from Gosnell High School in May 2023, Queen was referred to ARS again for vocational rehabilitation. As a client, she received various services, including counseling, assistance with job placement, and follow-up support. She honed her job readiness skills through VR services, including interviewing techniques, dress code adherence, and workplace duties.



By November of that year, Queen was successfully employed at Kroger's grocery store in Blytheville, where she enjoys her role as a bagger. She finds fulfillment in meeting new customers, helping them bag groceries, and assisting them to their vehicles. She is satisfied with her work duties and has saved enough money to move into her own apartment.

When asked about her experience with ARS, Queen replied, "I learned a lot. I thank you (ARS) for everything." She advises others to "Look on the bright side of life and never let your problems get you down. Never give up."



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Phillis Nichols

Despite facing physical challenges due to her disability, Phillis Nichols was determined to succeed in her daily life and start a business. Upon learning about Arkansas Rehabilitation Services, she promptly connected with a Vocational Rehabilitation counselor to determine eligibility and begin the necessary steps for assistance. Together, they discussed challenges and devised strategies on how ARS could help her thrive.



Phillis submitted a small business plan, which was deemed feasible with the assistance of the Small Business Program Manager. From there, Phillis, her counselor, and small business manager collaborated as a team to find a vendor capable of providing the necessary items for her business growth.

Once the plan was developed, the counselor connected with the partnered vendor to authorize and purchase supplies and equipment for Phillis. With these items, she could effectively perform her job duties and ensure the success of her business. She is now the proud owner of Haute Body Contouring and Wellness Zone, LLC.



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Laron Harris II

First-time client of Arkansas Rehabilitation Services Laron Harris II is currently a Senior at Prairie Grove High School. With the support of a short-term training program, Driver Education I, facilitated by ACDC, Laron successfully acquired his Learner's Permit. Eagerly looking ahead, Laron is now focused on obtaining his driver's license, graduating high school, and enrolling in college to pursue his vocational aspiration of becoming a Graphic Designer.

