

## Determination and Support Bring Success:

Marrakech has been working with Josh for about 3 years. We began working together when he was about 23 years old and part of the Young Adult Services. He recently left his job at Starbucks and was looking for a place to live. While Josh and Marrakech started looking for employment, he was housed by the Department of Mental Health & Addiction Services (DMHAS) Young Adult Program. In the beginning Josh would make all his appointments, dressed appropriately and ready for job developing. Josh went on numerous interviews and presented himself in a very positive manner. Josh was able to get the job but attendance was very challenging for him and this caused him to lose three jobs.

Josh's housing situation started to go downhill because he was not following the rules and ultimately his housing had ended. Josh then became homeless; couch surfing as he had nowhere to go. Josh became a bit dis-engaged at times, but with support and outreach from his employment specialist, he got back out there and started job developing. Josh always chose to go into potential job sites on his own, but stated that he felt better knowing his employment specialist from Marrakech was in the car if he needed support.

Josh did not let being homeless stop him from his determination to find work. In February of 2015 Josh landed a Job at Chipotle. Although Josh had no set living situation he was able to get to his job. He would get rides from friends, or take the bus if someone was able to lend him money. When Josh was in real need of rides he would call for support which was given in the way of bus passes or a ride to work so we could talk about how work was going. Josh still struggled with attendance, and ultimately left his job at Chipotle because he did not like the working environment there.

Prior to Josh quitting Chipotle he began job searching again and landed a job at Choice Pet Supply as a sales attendant in May of 2015. At the same time that Josh started this new job he got an apartment with his mother and his brother.

As of August of 2016, Josh is still working at Choice Pet supply and has been promoted from a Sales Associate, to a Manager in Training, to a Night Manager. Josh is now living in Bridgeport with his girlfriend and new born baby. He was able to buy a car and obtained his driver's license just this month. Josh feels very good about himself and his life. He states that he really appreciates the support from his Employment Specialist and that he could not have made it where he is without the support and motivation from her. Josh states he wants to continue to work at Choice Pet and work up the manager ladder.