

AUGUST 2020

# HELPING TO SECURE EMPLOYMENT

Cleveland Sight Center's Success Stories

Sam is currently homeless, sometimes spending most of his nights in downtown Cleveland near one of the city's professional sporting venues. He also rents space in his brother's refrigerator to keep food, and on occasion, his brother will afford him the privilege of sleeping in his home.

Sam has a strong connection to Cleveland Sight Center, having worked as a summer helper at Highbrook Lodge for a few years and also done some work with the agency's social work department.

Unfortunately, due to his circumstances, Sam has not been successful at securing stable, full-time employment - until now.

Hal, an employment specialist with CSC, was assigned to work with Sam in late July and was able to schedule a face-to-face meeting so the two could initially chat. During that first meeting, Hal gained insight into Sam's work history, barriers, skills, aptitudes and potential job leads.

The two met again a few days later when Sam notified Hal that he was presented with an interview opportunity with a local non-profit but was required to interview that same morning. But, because he had already committed his time with Hal, Sam thought he would need to reschedule the interview.

Hearing this, Hal immediately acted and convinced Sam to allow him to drive him to the interview. As the two drove to the interview site, Hal encouraged Sam to think positively, considering Sam was unsure and uneasy about the prospects of getting the job due to an unfavorable departure from the same non-profit in the past.

Later that morning, Hal received a call from Sam saying the interview was a success! Pending the online application, Sam now has a permanent, full-time maintenance position. Sam stated, "I am so thankful to you for taking me to the job interview. I now have hope again! When you dropped me off, I had doubts, but you told me not to worry, that I would get the job, and told me to call you with the good news. I doubted myself, but you did not! I am now making much more than I did when I worked there before, and I am so happy. All I can say is thank you!"

As word spread about Sam's hiring, the CSC team found out that due to Sam's circumstances, he did not have proper work attire or the means to purchase. Having heard Sam's story, a member of the CSC leadership team made a small financial contribution for proper work clothing and as a result, Sam now has what he needs to begin his work week!

*\*names have been changed to maintain confidentiality*

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