

A Supported Employment Success Story: JESSICA HASKINS

Background:

Jessica has always been eager to work. She started gaining valuable work experience by volunteering during high school, holding positions at Emanuel Hospital, Rite Aid, and Portland Public School's Coffee Cart.

After graduating from high school, Jessica went straight into a janitorial job geared toward people with disabilities. Unfortunately, this wasn't a particularly good fit. Jessica has a learning disability, but she is very capable of working independently. In this position, though, she was forced to work in a group with a high level of supervision. Jessica felt very uncomfortable about this, and wanted to find a job where she would have more opportunities and independence.

Strengths:

Jessica's extensive volunteer experiences have provided her with many marketable skills. She is a polite and thoughtful person, and works well with others and on her own.

The Right Job Match:

Jessica worked closely with her Job Developer, Melissa to find the perfect job—one that would utilize her customer service skills and her determination to do a job well. Jessica told Melissa that her dream job was to be a Courtesy Clerk at the QFC near her home.



JESSICA AND HER
JOB DEVELOPER,
MELISSA

UNITED CEREBRAL PALSY (UCP) OF OREGON AND SW WASHINGTON offers direct program service, information, and advocacy for people with cerebral palsy and other disabilities throughout our region.

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JESSICA AT HER
"DREAM JOB"

JESSICA HASKINS

Together, Melissa and Jessica submitted applications to many businesses, but the whole time Jessica was holding out hope for that dream job at QFC. And, eventually, a wonderful thing happened: QFC called, and Jessica was hired for a Courtesy Clerk position. She has been working at QFC since August, 2007.

Jessica is very happy with her "dream job". She loves her coworkers and she truly enjoys helping the customers with their groceries.

As Jessica says, "Now I get out of the house more. I have more money to shop with, and I have a lot of fun at work. I couldn't have gotten this job without them." UCP was pleased to help!