

## A Supported Employment Success Story: LESLIE HOBAUGH

### Background:

Leslie grew up at Fairview, Oregon's state-run institution for people with disabilities. Like many others, he was abused there, and over time he became very frustrated and angry. After Fairview was closed, he was sent to a home for delinquent boys.

When Melissa, his UCP job developer, met him, he had just lost his job of thirteen years. It had not been a good fit—the wages were paltry, and the work was not fulfilling. Even worse, he didn't have a workspace of his own, something that Leslie found very frustrating. He was hoping that UCP could help him find something much better.

### Strengths:

Melissa quickly realized that Leslie has an amazing memory for names, dates and times—in fact, he can tell you where he was on almost any date and what he was doing. Melissa knew that Leslie's near perfect memory could be a useful skill in the right position.

Melissa also noticed that Leslie has a strong desire to communicate. Even though he is deaf and uses sign language, he has created methods for communicating with hearing people through gestures and writing.



LESLIE AND HIS JOB  
DEVELOPER, MELISSA  
MILLER

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.

## LESLIE HOBAUGH

### The Right Job Match:

Melissa and Leslie worked together, and came up with a list of qualities that any potential job should have:

- he should be respected and treated fairly
- there should be clear rules that he could understand
- his coworkers would be mature and open-minded
- if possible, he should have a high level of independence
- and, if possible, he should have his own workspace

With this list in hand, Melissa was soon able to find the perfect job for Leslie. On February 2, 2007, Leslie started work at Community Newspapers, working as a Tear Sheet Clerk. Every item on the list was found in this job.

Leslie's job is to tear a copy of each advertisement sold each week and mail them to the businesses that purchased them. This kind of work requires him to remember names and addresses, and he gets a cubicle of his own where no one bothers him. Leslie has not experienced the anger or frustration that haunted him in other jobs. He loves his job. And his co-workers love him!

As his boss, Mike O'Shaughnessy, says, "Leslie has been a terrific asset and addition to our department. Leslie began to excel immediately, discovering and implementing procedures to streamline the position. Leslie gets along famously with the other workers here, even resulting in unexpected bonding as we slowly learn some simple sign language. I'm very glad to have him as a part of our department."

#### CONTACT UCP SUPPORTED EMPLOYMENT

We've found jobs for dozens of people—we can find one for you, too! Call Melissa Miller at 503/777-4166 or email [mmiller@ucpaorwa.org](mailto:mmiller@ucpaorwa.org).



Leslie hard at work!