

2-20-15

To: Employment First stakeholders

From: Mike Maley, Statewide Employment First Coordinator

Re: [Employment First](#): More Success Stories

(Please forward to your local partners & stakeholders)

Recently, we've been hearing from providers around Oregon who have their own success stories to share. In Central Oregon, Katie Aljets and her job as a secretarial assistant at High Desert Education Service District were [profiled on local news station KBNZ](#). United Cerebral Palsy of Oregon and Southwest Washington also [regularly profiles job success stories](#).

This week, we are going to share a story recently sent to us by Exceed Enterprises in Milwaukie, Ore. Exceed is expanding its supported employment program to focus more on community employment.



Wayne Sanders works at YMCA Camp Collins.

Contributed photo by Exceed.

Wayne Sanders is an employee of [YMCA Camp Collins](#) near Oxbow Regional Park in Gresham. He works more than 16 hours per week, making more than minimum wage.

Since May 2014, Wayne has taken on projects such as cleaning interior windows in the cabins, checking for graffiti and removing as needed, repairing fence boards at

the horse corral and gathering windfall from camp trails.

“His favorite things to do are camping, fishing and being outdoors,” said JaNae Hagel, community employment specialist with Exceed Enterprises. “This is a job that fits his interests and passions.”

Wayne worked in an enclave in the past, but he was unemployed when job development began. JaNae said Wayne's past community jobs were bad experiences so it was crucial to find a job that fit Wayne's interests and abilities.



JaNae Hagel (left) is a community employment specialist with Exceed Enterprises. Wayne Sanders works at YMCA Camp Collins.

Contributed photo by Exceed.

Brian White, group services director at YMCA Camp Collins, provides a list outlining seasonal tasks. Wayne takes his list and makes sure the camp is ready for the next group of campers.

“He is a hard worker and asks a lot of questions and I am happy to answer them because I know it is going to help him do his job effectively,” Brian said.

Brian is working with Wayne to incorporate smaller repair projects into his schedule such as fixing benches along the hiking trail.

“We are providing Wayne opportunities to look at repairs and help us figure out how to fix them,” said Brian. “We also want Wayne to learn how to use some of the power tools. Just like any other employee he will need to demonstrate that he can use the equipment properly and safely before he is on his own.”

Except for a snag on the first day on the job, all has gone well for Wayne at Camp Collins.

“We were in the golf cart in the lower part of the camp. It was raining and the cart died on us going up the hill. We had to push the cart and that was not easy,” Wayne said.

His biggest challenge is when the camp is full. Wayne experiences an intellectual disability and anxiety.

“When the kids are here I need to be careful driving the golf cart and watch out for the kids because they don’t watch for you. So I need to be mindful and pay attention to my surroundings,” said Wayne.

Wayne enjoys being outdoors, and his confidence is improving as he is successful in his job.

More information about Exceed’s community job program is available at:
<http://www.exceedpdx.com/join-us/work-futures-program/>

Thank you all for your continued involvement, support, and advocacy for services to individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities in Oregon. If you have comments or questions, please email them to employment.first@state.or.us.

~ Mike