

# Mission Moments

*Made Possible By YOU!*

Edition 52, August 2020

## The Search is Over: Michael Gets a Job

Michael had been searching for a job for a while. He had worked with a few different job coaches, but didn't find success until he met Lori, an employment consultant for Tangram. She first started working with Michael in early April 2020.

When the pair started working together on the job search process, they encountered more hurdles due to the coronavirus pandemic. Meetings that would typically take place in person were held over video conference and visits to potential employers were placed on hold. Instead, Lori and Michael met virtually for about an hour per week to do interest and ability assessments and develop a plan for Michael's job search.



In July, they were finally able to start meeting face-to-face and visiting businesses near his home. That's when they decided to stop by a Wendy's that was hiring. "They hired him on the spot," recalled Lori. "This Wendy's is a great organization. They were really open to hiring Michael and his supervisor was impressed with him." In fact, Michael's supervisor explained why they were eager to hire Michael, saying, "Everybody needs to be given a chance. Why not?"

Michael's main motivation for wanting a job is the independence that comes with earning money. While this may be true, Lori says she has seen a lot of other positive side effects since he started working in late July. "I think it has given him a lot of confidence. It occupies his mind and makes him feel

useful, plus he likes that he works independently," said Lori.

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She stated that Michael feels comfortable asking his manager for more tasks when he has completed his work, and that he has learned to speak up and advocate for himself, such as when he noticed his coworkers all had visors on and he had been given a baseball cap. Knowing that he would be more comfortable in a visor in the summer heat, he asked his manager if he could get one. The manager told him that they were on backorder, but that he would be sure to give Michael a visor as soon as they arrived.

Right now, Michael's role is completing outdoor maintenance, but since he is a quick learner, he has started learning other tasks, and may eventually move into other roles. "When I reminded Michael of a task I thought he had overlooked and commented to him about it, his reply to me was, 'I know...I've got this.'" said Lori.



Though Michael has experience as a volunteer, you can tell that finding employment has buoyed his spirits and given him a boost in self-esteem. He's grateful, too, that Wendy's gave him an opportunity, and typed his supervisor a thank-you note to show how much the opportunity means to him.

This is just the beginning of Michael's career path, and we look forward to watching him grow!

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