

PIN Steps In

By Adam

I began working as a volunteer occupational service aide at Montgomery Hospital/Moss Rehab in Norristown in 2006. After a few years, I happily accepted a paid position. I enjoyed helping patients when I worked and had a range of duties where I interacted with therapists as well as patients. While I liked working with people, it was a long commute; an hour and 15 minutes and three transfers each way.

After 9 years, Moss Rehab restructured and I lost my job. I wasn't prepared as notice came suddenly and I was not sure what my next steps would be. With support from my family and the PIN community, I got through this and was ready to look for new employment.

The PIN mentors and Phil, from the JEVS employment team, offered the support I needed to find a job. I had help updating my resume and began attending the weekly WorkSkills workshops which helped me prepare to re-enter the work world. Phil told me about openings at Kmart and helped me prepare for and ace my interview. And while I don't view this as my forever job, it does have its advantages. It is only a 30 minute train ride, it keeps me busy and I'm getting paid.



I've adjusted very well to my new work environment. With previous work experience, including retail, I don't need much support from the JEVS employment team, but when I do, Phil is there for me. For the most part, I can navigate my work relationships and duties by communicating with the management team. Kmart is very accommodating and they work with me on things like changing my work schedule if I need to. I work with customers; helping them

find items and if needed, load their cars. I also stock new merchandise when it gets delivered.

With JEVS' support, I continue to look for a job in my field of choice; a rehabilitation center. In the meantime, I am happy at Kmart and find satisfaction in helping others each day on the job.

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PIN is there...When it Matters Most

By Phil Meyer, PIN Business Development

No one wants to hear the words "Your services are no longer needed, clear out your desk, you are being laid off", but for one PIN member, this scenario was very real and very personal.

One evening last October, Adam announced to the PIN community that he had suddenly lost his long-term position as a Physical and Occupational Aide at Montgomery Hospital. Due to budget cuts, after 3 years as a volunteer and 3 ½ years as a paid aide, he no longer had a job.

Adam and I created a plan to search for a new position. I helped him apply for unemployment benefits, locate on-line job sites, fill out on-line and hard copy applications, update his resume, and create cover letters to accompany his applications. Adam also availed himself of the PIN WorkSkills classes, which help PIN members prepare for employment. We discuss what to wear, how to



Adam (right) with friend and fellow PIN member David.

interview, the best on-line job sites, and what skills we can develop to be a better candidate for a position.

Adam did not find a job in PT/OT, so we opened up the search criteria to include customer service. I had a contact with the HR Department at the Kmart in

Stafford/Wayne, where we had placed another PIN member earlier in the fall. I suggested to Adam that he apply for the open merchandising position, and continue looking for employment in his field while working part-time at Kmart.

Adam took what he thought was going to be a temporary position at Kmart for the holiday season. However, with a strong performance, his job has turned into a permanent part-time position.

Adam has enjoyed the variety of jobs within the broad scope of merchandising. Each day is a little bit different, but with enough of a routine that Adam is comfortable with the position. Adam has found success in his job at Kmart, is developing job skills he can take and use in the future and did not give up when he was unable to find a position in his chosen area. We are all very proud of Adam.

A Parent's Perspective

By Sharon

My family is so proud of our son Adam. He worked for Moss Rehabilitation Hospital in Norristown for over 7 years. He began as a volunteer, and did so well that he was hired as a salaried, part-time, occupational therapy aide. He was a reliable and conscientious employee and really enjoyed his interactions with patients and staff. He is compassionate and often used his wit to make people smile. As far as he was concerned, the only downside was making the long trip from Narberth, whenever he was needed, by public transportation. Last October,

without warning, Adam was told that budget cuts had caused his position to be eliminated. He was suddenly unemployed.

Unemployment was a blow personally and to his income. Luckily, PIN was there to help. Phil helped Adam with the job search. Adam received support from his fellow PIN members as well as the staff. He became an active participant in Skills4Life, which he previously missed because of his work schedule. Friends were available when he needed to talk, or just wanted company.

Mentors were there to listen and advise. And when Adam was offered the position at Kmart, Phil helped negotiate his hours and schedule. PIN provided exactly what was needed in what could have been a long and difficult period in Adam's life. He is happy to have an income, be back to a routine, and in a position where he gets to interact with others. I am happy that PIN worked just as it was supposed to, and gave Adam the support he needed to lead the independent life he wants.

A Winning Combination

By Connie, Director of Human Resources, Kmart in Devon, PA

For Kmart, staying fully staffed is a challenge. We have a large workforce, face continual turnover and are always looking for good employees. JEVS Human Services helps us meet our goals.

Last year we hired a number of PIN members, including Adam. While he was originally hired for a 'holiday/seasonal' job, he was soon offered, and accepted, a permanent position. Adam is reliable, gets the job done and is a good employee. A Hard Lines Merchandizer, his responsibilities include not just stocking shelves, but reworking merchandise into an area, highlighting sale items with placards and signs, and generally making shopping in the Kmart of Devon a pleasant experience. If he is unclear about something, he asks for help from his manager. He does not require much additional support, but if necessary, we can always get support from the JEVS employment team. Hiring individuals with disabilities takes little additional effort on our part. We

have several practices that help newly hired employees, including those with disabilities, transition into the job. Every applicant, including Adam and other PIN members, goes through the same screening process. Training includes both video and in-person components. By breaking training into manageable segments, we can accommodate a diverse population. And our managers, supplemented by the JEVS employment team, are there to support the staff. At Kmart, we treat everyone equally and ask all to do the job they are hired to do. With a little patience and an environment that encourages questions, the PIN members meet our expectations. Hiring PIN members has been a win for all involved. Kmart has benefitted with good, reliable and loyal employees who come with built-in supports whenever there is a need. The members benefit with permanent jobs, a convenient location, a pleasant work environment and that all important salary. Lastly, JEVS benefits by placing individuals in jobs and helping to build a strong community.



Adam on the job at Kmart



Meet Caleb, our newest PIN member. We happily welcome him to the PIN community.



Congratulations to Ryan and Ethan for starting new jobs.

STAFF NEWS



Shown left to right: Meghan, Kate, Jill & Phil

Welcome...Jill Gromen, PIN's new Program Director

Our Mentors and Business Developer have also experienced some milestones in recent months. Congratulations to each of you.

Meghan McHugh is celebrating her 1st year anniversary with PIN.

Kate Murdaugh recently earned her Master of Counseling Psychology from Holy Family University

Phil Meyer recently passed the exam and achieved his CESP™ (Certified Employment Support Professional). He is one of about 200 people in the state of PA to achieve this recognition.