

Community Employment Services



Sonia (right) is standing next to her supervisor (left) in the Safeway Bakery

It's never too late to go after your dreams

When Employment Specialist Elizabeth Yeager met with Sonia for the first time during intake she shared that her dream job was to work at Safeway in the bakery department. She was previously employed as a food server at Shari's for the past 12 years. After only putting in a few applications Sonia was hired on as a Cashier with a few weeks Sonia was moved into a Bakery Clerk position! At her last appointment, Sonia was excited to share that she was going to be trained as a Cake Decorator and to add to her skill set as a worker. Sonia wants to let folks know that it's never too late to go after their dreams! She is working on her next goal of getting her driver's license and graduating with her GED. Way to go, Sonia!!!

Employer Spotlight



In October, Skookum developed a new partnership with Sprouts Farmers Market in Silverdale when they hired our CES client, Ryan to assist in their Bakery department where he assisted the Bakery manager with pricing merchandise such as cakes, cookies, and loaves of bread. Assistant manager, Georgia said, "Ryan's been our best hire for this past year! He is always on the go, eager to be cross-trained, and provides excellent customer service!" Sprouts pride itself on being people-powered and purpose-driven which pairs perfectly with Skookum's mission of Creating Opportunities for People of All Abilities. Thank you Dylan Neice and all the Sprouts team for your commitment to a person-focused mission where job coaching is supportive! Congrats again Ryan on the job!

Ryan (left) is standing with his Sprouts Supervisor Georgia (right)

Success Story

We first met Ryan while he attended a series of job readiness classes while receiving inpatient treatment for substance use disorder. He told us, "I thought Skookum just performed janitorial on the local Kitsap bases however, you do so much more." Ryan decided to sign up for Foundational Community Supports because he wanted to do something different in his life than working in foodservice. Ryan began working as a Bakery Clerk at Sprouts Farmer's Market in October 2021. At the end of his 6-month review, he was promoted to Courtesy Clerk. He is excited to work for an amazing company like Sprouts. He is excited to work towards his long-term goal of becoming a registered dietitian. Ryan expressed that having the support of his Employment Specialist and frequent check-ins support him as an employee and a person living in recovery. We're so proud of you Ryan!!

Welcome Brandon!

Brandon was enrolled in the Foundational Community Supports (FCS) program after having a history of substance abuse disorder. Brandon has worked in several fields of work such as retail, warehouse, and janitorial services. Thankfully, within a couple of weeks, Brandon was able to secure a full-time job here at Skookum working in the Naval Shipyard, and he could not be more excited to start towards the beginning of June.



Brandon looks forward to being able to become part of an organization that understands the importance of safety, all the while promoting human engagement. The past couple of years has been a surreal experience for all of us – as we begin to move forward, Brandon holds onto hope that there is growth, as well as reconciliation in his future as he works towards a better life for himself and his son.

Brandon, we here at Skookum are so proud of all the hard work that you have put in and look forward to cheering you on as you embark on this new journey. On behalf of Skookum, welcome to the team!

Skookum is proud to be partnering with the following employers in Kitsap County:

- Home Depot
- Subway
- Flagship Inn
- Olalla Recovery Centers
- Krazen

CES UPDATES

2022 has been the year of changes for the CES Department!
We had a new CES Manager and a new Employment Specialists join the team.

MEGAN



Position: Workforce Development Director

About: I'm a Washington state native. I completed my Master's degree in Student Development Administration from Seattle University. I came to Skookum 8 years ago. My hobbies include spending time with my husband, three children, five pets, gardening, camping and reading.

Motivation: At Skookum we like to say work is the medicine. I am motivated by people finding success in their work life.

AMANDA



Position: CES Manager

About: I grew up in Maryland and moved to Washington in 2017. I have a Bachelor's in Social Work from Bowie State University. I came to Skookum 4 years ago to pursue a career helping people with disabilities. I enjoy painting, reading, playing the piano, and going on nature walks with my husband and dog, Rooster.

Motivation: I am passionate about helping people learn to help themselves. I love seeing someone succeed and achieve their goals.

ELIZABETH



Position: Employment Specialist

About: Originally from Brooklyn, New York, I have traveled the United States as a military spouse until coming to Washington. I have been working for Skookum since March 2021. The highlight of my week is spent teaching job readiness classes weekly at Kitsap Recovery Center.

Motivation: My passion for working with clients stems from my own lived experiences as a person with multiple disabilities and being in long-term recovery.

JAMIE



Position: Employment Specialist

About: Role: I'm a Kitsap County native having attended the same High School both my parents attended. I have worked for Skookum for 3.5 years as an employment specialist. I enjoy spending quiet time at home cooking, cleaning, and tending to my vegetable and dahlia garden. I have over 40 varieties of dahlias.

Motivation: I am motivated most by the diverse clients I am privileged to assist to find gainful employment.

LIBERTY



Position: Employment Specialist

About: Born in California, but raised here in Kitsap County, I am a single mother of an awesome and wonderfully challenging fifteen-year-old and a Veteran of the United States Coast Guard. I have a Bachelors in Tribal Governance from The Evergreen State College and I have a background as a Chemical Dependency Professional.

Motivation: I am here to help you achieve a career that will give you a sense of accomplishment and stability.

Benefits Planning Resources

Want to know how work can affect your benefits?

Plan to Work is a free and voluntary service available to individuals in the state of Washington (except southern counties Pacific, Lewis, Wahkiakum, Cowlitz, Clark, Skamania, Klickitat, Benton, Franklin, and Walla Walla) who are currently receiving disability benefits from the Social Security Administration and want to work. We answer questions about how work affects benefits, and identify work incentives to support career goals.



If you are:

Currently receiving disability benefits from the Social Security Administration
AND:

Working more than occasionally or ...

Weighing a job offer or ...

Considering earning more due to a promotion, second job, career change, or self-employment or ...

Encountering problems or changes that might result in resignation, cutting back work or otherwise losing earned income or ...

Having trouble reporting your earnings to Social Security or ...

Experiencing changes in your benefits after beginning work ...

Call the Ticket to Work Helpline, at (866) 968-7842

Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR)

- Available to all clients receiving DVR services
- To learn more or request services:

Contact your DVR Counselor OR
visit the DSHS website at

<https://www.dshs.wa.gov/dvr/benefits-planning>



Work Incentives Planning & Assistance (WIPA)

- For Social Security (SSI/SSDI) beneficiaries
- Must generally be currently working or actively seeking employment
- To learn more or find a provider:

Call the Ticket to Work Help Line at 1-866-968-7842 OR
1-866-833-2967 (TTY)

Visit the Choose Work website at

<https://choosework.ssa.gov/>



Resources For People With Justice Involvement

JUSTICE IN MOTION WEB APP

ANSWER THE QUESTIONS IN THE WEB APP AND IT WILL FILL OUT AND EMAIL TO YOU THE SUPERIOR COURT FORMS AND INSTRUCTIONS YOU NEED TO FILE WITH THE COURT TO REQUEST A REDUCTION IN YOUR LFOS
THIS WEBSITE AND WEBAPP PROVIDES GENERAL LEGAL INFORMATION ONLY. IT DOES NOT PROVIDE LEGAL ADVICE.

APP GOES LIVE
JULY 1, 2022

IF YOU NEED A FREE OR LOW-COST LAWYER, CONTACT:

- CIVIL SURVIVAL (WESTERN WA)
- NORTHWEST JUSTICE PROJECT (STATEWIDE)
- THE WAY TO JUSTICE (EASTERN WA)

CLICK ON THE VIDEO FOR
INFORMATION ABOUT THE
STATE VS. BLAKE DECISION



NEED HELP FINDING YOUR DREAM JOB?

Must have Apple Health insurance:

- Amerigroup Washington
- Community Health Plan of Washington
- Coordinated Care of Washington
- Molina Healthcare of Washington
- UnitedHealthcare Community Plan

And a mental health diagnosis, substance use disorder diagnosis or struggle with chronic homelessness



FCS

If you have a physical or mental disability that is a substantial barrier to employment; and you require vocational rehabilitation services to get or keep a job.



DVR



**TICKET TO
WORK**

Everyone age 18 through 64 who receives Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) and/or Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits because of his or her disability and wants to transition off benefits by working full-time.

Contact us today to see if you qualify for services!

CES@skookum.org

360-475-0756 ext 131