

# COMMUNITY EMPLOYMENT SERVICES



## *"My Mechanic Dream is Taking Off!"*

Jesse had two different positions he was let go from and wasn't sure why. He contacted DVR (Division of Vocational Rehabilitation) for help finding a new job. Jesse's dream job was working with cars. Skookum partnered with Advantage Nissan to secure a volunteer position as a lot attendant to assess his skills and any barriers due to his disabilities. This information would help guide Jesse's employment path for the future.

Chuck Capps, the owner of Advantage Nissan, was impressed by Jesse's work ethic and offered him a paid position as a lot attendant, with the future goal of moving Jesse to a spot in the mechanics shop as soon a position opens up! Jesse was ecstatic to learn that Nissan would pay for the tools and training for the mechanics program. Jesse and his fiancé are expecting their first child next year and he is eagerly anticipating starting his dream job. Way to go Jesse!



# CES STAFF



**MEGAN**

***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**

***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**

***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**

***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**

***AmeriCorps Mentor***

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



**CAITLIN**

***Employment Specialist***

About: Born and raised in Everett WA, and spent some time traveling the southern states as a military spouse before returning and residing in Kitsap County in 2015. I am a mother of three amazing children. We enjoy camping, hiking, bike riding, and anything outdoors. My hobbies are knitting, reading, and cleaning.  
Motivation: Providing and supporting individuals with all abilities opportunities to find and maintain paid integrated employment in the community.

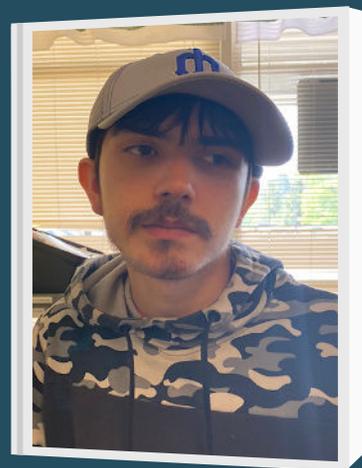
# KITSAP RECOVERY CENTER

KRC is a substance use disorder treatment facility located in the heart of Port Orchard, Washington. The Clinical Director, Keith Winfield leads a team of amazing Substance Use Disorder Professionals, Treatment Aides, and support staff! KRC recently oversaw a practicum for one of our FCS clients who were able to graduate this past summer. In October 2022, KRC began an employment search for an on-call Treatment Aide position on the inpatient side of the facility. KRC extended a job offer to Laura after she completed her practicum there. Thanks, KRC for taking care of individuals throughout Kitsap county and for embracing Skookum's mission of finding employment for individuals of all abilities!

## Employer Spotlight

### SUCCESS STORY

Skookum performed a Community Based Assessment that identified Cory was unable to read or write and had difficulty speaking with unfamiliar people. Skookum arranged for DVR to purchase new glasses, a pen reader, and ACCESS transportation training. Skookum helped Cory apply to ten positions and accompanied him on four interviews before securing him a position for Cory at Chipotle Mexican Grill as a dining room attendant. This is Cory's first paid employment! He has shown he cares about doing a good job and is working on greeting customers and interacting with his coworkers. We are so proud of all the hard work and progress you have made Cory!



*"I'm happy someone finally gave me a chance"*



## SUCCESS STORY

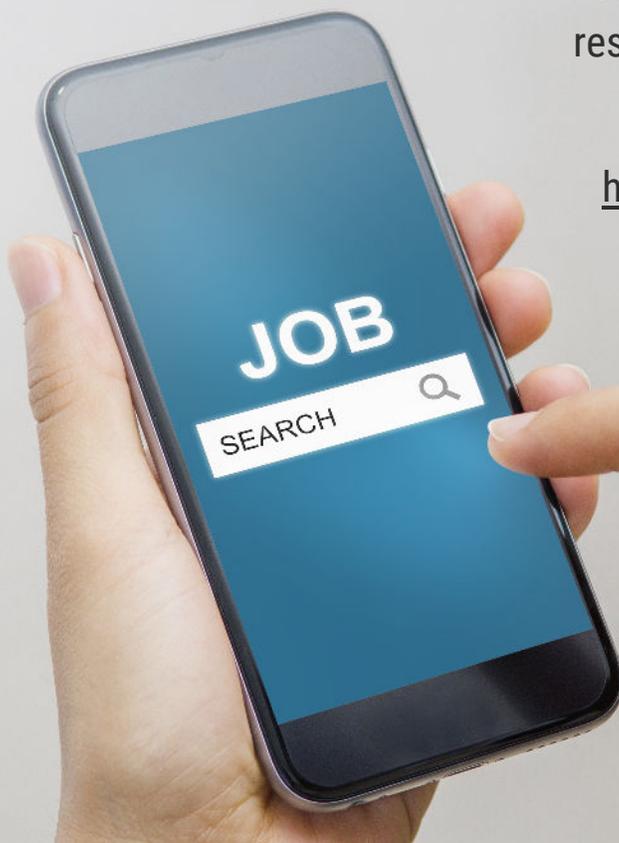
Joann came to Skookum in July 2021 after being referred by her therapist because she needed employment support while dealing with some life-changing health diagnoses during the height of the COVID pandemic. Joann describes that time in her life as her “perfect storm” as she was thrust into the role of advocating for herself and navigating a career change from being a barista. While meeting weekly with her CES Employment Specialist, Elizabeth Yeager, Joann expressed an interest in working in a slower pace job that could accommodate her disabilities. Joann worked in a few different office settings however, they weren’t the right fit she was looking for.

In 2022, Elizabeth shared a Vitamin Clerk opening at Sprouts Farmer Market with Joann who applied and was hired. After 6 months of working at Sprouts, a Vitamin Clerk Assistant Manager position opened up and Joann applied for it and was promoted. Due to a newfound confidence in speaking up for herself, Joann approached her employer to negotiate a pay increase to compensate for leaving her second job. Joann was approved for a five-dollar pay raise! Joann moved into her own rental home and is planning on returning to college at Western State University to complete her bachelor’s degree to possibly secure a position in the human services field helping others with disabilities find their voice. Way to go, Joann!!

***“If it wasn't for Skookum, I wouldn't have been able to find my voice, develop the confidence I needed, and get support along my employment journey.”***

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

- Sprouts
- Advantage Nissan
- Crabtree Kitchen + Bar
- Chipotle
- Harborside Commons Garage
- ChocMo Chocolatier & Café



Follow us on Facebook for free resources, job leads and hiring events in Kitsap County.

<https://www.facebook.com/SkookumCES/>

# UPCOMING EVENTS

## ***Free Classes starting at Kitsap Community Resources!***

Each month, KCR offers several, free classes on many different topics such as:

- Computer Basics
- How to survive a financial crisis
- Resumes and Cover Letters
- Interview Prep
- Debt Collection Management
- How to start your own business
- Communication 101
- Free first aid and CPR classes
- How to use a tablet or smart phone

Skookum will be teaching this class!



## **HOW TO SIGN UP:**

Click on the link below to see what classes are coming up and register.

<https://www.kcr.org/events>



# 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



*Transforming lives*

Division of Vocational Rehabilitation

## **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/>

# NEED HELP?

FIND YOUR DREAM JOB

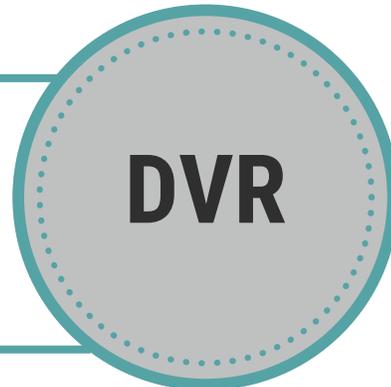


Must have Apple Health insurance:

- 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

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.



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 earn more money by working and eventually transitioning off benefits.

**Contact us today to see if you qualify for services!**

[CES@skookum.org](mailto:CES@skookum.org)

360-475-0756 ext 131