



INCLUSION & EMPLOYMENT

Bucks County
Employment Coalition
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NEW YEAR, NEW COMMITMENT TO EMPLOYMENT FIRST

Happy Holidays! Welcome to the second issue of the Bucks County Employment Coalition's Inclusion & Employment newsletter. Instead of sharing our resolutions to eat less chocolate or join a book club, we decided to share our resolutions to put Employment First in 2022:

"To learn about the programs and supports that are available to balance benefits and employment." *Sarah Worthington*

∞
"Continue to grow the work with the Bucks County TCC stakeholders to increase employability and employment opportunities for our students across Bucks County."
Jamie Lill

∞
"To help as many students as I can become knowledgeable about the world of work so they can meet their employment goals." *Kathleen Brown*

∞
"To connect with local businesses and help them understand the value of hiring an individual with a disability." *Gabriella Egan*

∞
"To expand on the work that the Employment Coalition is doing to increase employment opportunities for people with disabilities in Bucks County." *Nicole Van Reymersdal*

We invite you to consider making an Employment First resolution of your own for 2022!

Upcoming Features in February's Newsletter:

- ❖ Information on Benefits Counseling
- ❖ Ticket to Work Program
- ❖ Keep Benefits While Working Interview

Upcoming Employment Coalition Meeting:

January 10th at 2:30
(via Microsoft TEAMS)

PORTRAITS OF EMPLOYMENT: Helen's Employment Journey

Helen Cunningham has been supported by Community Options, Inc. since 2013. She previously experienced behavioral challenges which were a barrier to her becoming fully involved in her community.

Helen has been receiving Supported Employment services for the past two years. During this time, Helen put forth a lot of work, both personally and professionally. She experienced working in fields of her desire, as well as fields that she determined were not of interest to her. She started her employment journey working an assembly line job but was able to independently determine this job was not an appropriate fit for her. Helen then decided and advocated that she wanted to try something new.

She sought out a job at a local Denny's Restaurant as a dishwasher attendant in May of 2021. Helen immediately discovered how much she loved this job, and her employer recognized the phenomenal work she was doing. With employment, comes setbacks.

Due to a slow reopening of the restaurant after renovations in October 2021, her hours were reduced to four hours per week. While this was disappointing, Helen has been able to adjust to this change. Her manager has insisted that she continues to work regularly, due to her positive attitude, great work ethic and happy disposition.

Helen didn't stop there. She decided that she wanted more! Understanding that her hours were decreased at Denny's, Helen took it upon herself to find a second job at Five Guys, as a lobby attendant. Helen enjoys interacting with customers and absolutely loves the monetary tips she shares with her colleagues weekly. Helen works three to four days per week at Five Guys and is doing a fabulous job!

We are so proud of Helen for her determination and perseverance not only in finding and obtaining one job, but two! Helen is motivated, energetic, and driven in her employment journey. We cannot wait to see all that Helen will accomplish in the future-
Heather Pollack



Are you an employer interested in finding out more about the benefits of hiring workers with disabilities? *Join the Bucks County Employment Coalition*
If you would like additional information on the Coalition, Employment First, or Supported Employment services, please contact Nicole Van Reymersdal at nvanreymersdal@buckscounty.org