

## 100 Years...100 Stories

Throughout this month, we will be featuring Arkansas stories from yesterday and today to celebrate National Disability Employment Awareness Month along with celebrating 100 years of Vocational Rehabilitation, 75 years of National Disability Employment Awareness Month, and 30 years of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

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### Timothy Robinson

Timothy Robinson became a client of Arkansas Rehabilitation Services in the Spring of 2019. His declining hearing rendered him great difficulties with communicating in his professional and personal life and needed help. Mr. Robinson has been a licensed plumber/pipefitter for over 35 years and discussed how crucial it is that he can communicate effectively with his boss, co-workers, and interns that he teaches. Mr. Robinson also noted how having difficulties with hearing could lead to safety concerns. In his free time, Mr. Robinson volunteers with Arkansas



Disaster, which involves visiting other states during disasters, such as Hurricane Harvey. Mr. Robinson also discussed how he loves playing the part of Santa Claus at his church each December. Arkansas Rehabilitation Services assisted with the procurement of hearing aids, and by the Fall of 2019, Mr. Robinson had correctly fitting hearing aids that have greatly improved his ability to communicate with others and stay safe on the job.

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### Sheryl Turner

ARS Client Sheryl Turner came to our Benton Field Office very depressed because she lost her job as a cafeteria cook in a local school district due to the pandemic. She was in a challenging position, trying to support her house with limited to no income and cared for her ill husband, who was forced to retire from his job due to his health. Sheryl had been consistent in her job

search and had completed numerous applications, but had no responses yet. She wanted to give up, but ARS staff reviewed her resume and made some additional changes to improve her chances of finding a job. Soon after, Sheryl was called by TJ Maxx in Benton for an interview and hired as a sales associate. Sheryl was so excited that she cried tears of joy for allowing her to become employed again during this time. She said that she truly would not have made it without the support from ARS staff members.



*Sheryl Turner with ARS staff celebrating her success!*

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### Andrew Aston

Andrew Aston graduated from the UAMS Project SEARCH® inaugural class in 2014. A native of Little Rock, Drew has been employed at UAMS since 2014. He has worked in Patient Transport as an Equipment Manager for the past five years.

Andrew is among a few Project SEARCH graduates in the nine countries to achieve the title of manager and serve as a Mentor for new interns in his department; while being a consistent Top 10 Performer in his department. Drew says that the UAMS Project SEARCH site taught him the skills he needed to take on that job, have the ability to retain it, and the

courage to pursue upward mobility within the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences system. The UAMS Project SEARCH site was developed in partnership between ACCESS Group, Inc., Arkansas Rehabilitation Services (ARS), and a host of other stakeholders, far too many to list here included several members of APSE.

