

“I just had my 2-year anniversary at the IRS. I would be out of order if I did not thank you all for your help during my rehabilitation. I know without any reservation that my training at Clovernook prepared me for this job and will allow for lateral movement in the future.”

—Kevin Pearson

Finding Employment:

Ed Washington was initially referred to Clovernook Center for the Blind & Visually Impaired by the Bureau of Services for the Visually Impaired (BSVI) in January 2008. He was seeking assistance in order to find employment utilizing his training and skills in the culinary arts. Ed is visually impaired and was diagnosed with Myopic Degeneration.

Ed also needed assistance to prepare for his Certified Executive Chef (CEC) test and job coaching support to prepare for and pass the written portion of the test—the first step in becoming certified as a chef. In addition, Clovernook’s job coach provided assistance with purchasing the items necessary to practice for the live portion of the test.

The challenge

Due to his visual impairment, finding employment as a chef was difficult for Ed Washington. He required a computer and the software necessary to assist him with preparing for and taking the written portion of the CEC certification test. He also needed assistance with the purchasing of the food items required for practicing his live cooking test – illustrating his knowledge and skills. Ed’s job coach was able to provide this support and assistance, allowing him to begin the journey toward competitive employment in his chosen field.

The solution

Ed was assigned a job developer to secure community employment. He then received job coaching assistance to set up the required testing online. He was able to use a computer at Clovernook that was equipped with Zoomtext, computer software designed for individuals with visual impairments. The job coach provided further support by requesting the written test be sent to Clovernook so that the job coach could act as proctor for Ed during the course of the exam. The job coach then assisted Ed by setting up the perfect opportunity for him to practice his live food test—preparing a Bistro meal at the Procter Center. Clovernook consumers were treated to a fine dining experience and Mr. Washington was provided the opportunity to receive the practical experience needed for his live test, gaining confidence in his culinary abilities.



CLOVERNOOK CENTER
FOR THE BLIND AND VISUALLY IMPAIRED

Finding Employment:

The outcome

As a result of job development and job coaching services, Mr. Washington has secured community employment at the Hilton Garden Inn of Blue Ash. He has passed his written CEC certification test and is currently practicing for his live test for full certification as an executive chef.



We need your help

The statistics are startling—according to the American Foundation for the Blind, the unemployment rate for working-age adults (16 to 64 years of age) who reported blindness or serious difficulty seeing was 15.3 percent (128,000 people) of the approximate 838,000 working age adults who reported vision loss and were included in the civilian labor force.

Finding employment is a definite need for people who are blind or visually impaired. Only one-fifth of those locally surveyed currently have a job that provides income. Of those currently without a job (not including retired individuals), nearly one-third say they need to find work that provides an income.

Help people with visual impairments beat the statistics and find competitive employment—just like Ed Washington.