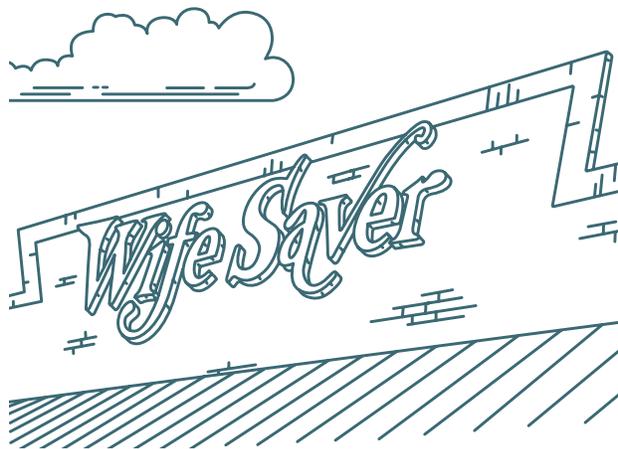


Mr. Clayton Bannecke

Mr. Bannecke and his father were introduced to a Disability Resource Coordinator (DRC) during a visit to the local Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency (GVRA). Although equipped with a wide array of work experience, Mr. Bannecke had not held a consistent job for several years.

Clay Bannecke was provided with career mapping services to help identify his strengths and interests. Through meetings with the Integrated Resource team, a plan was developed for Clay to participate in a Community Work Adjustment Training at a local grocery store. Clay was very excited to join the program and even utilized a county transportation bus to get him to/from his three-month training. When the training concluded, he was interviewed by a new potential employer, Wife Saver. Wife Saver contacted DEI and expressed an interest in finding quality workers.

Clay received three months of WIOA-funded training as a Dishwasher at Wife Saver, working three days per week and earning a salary of \$7.50/hr. He also performed tasks such as cleaning the dining room, arranging floor mats, and maintaining a clean area for customers. He applied himself well, greeted customers with a smile, and followed the direction of his supervisor. During the holidays, he was asked several times to accompany the owner in delivering catering orders into the community; the owner was very pleased with his hard work and dedication to do his very best.



Clay's training session ended in early January 2019, and he would later become a permanent employee Wife Saver. He has grown to understand the importance of staying on task, working well with his co-workers. He will continue to receive assistance with his transportation for a little longer to help him transition into being able to manage this himself. With the help of the Disability Employment Initiative, Clay is in the process of setting up an UBER account, and learning to manage this for himself. Once this is accomplished he will have the ability to schedule his own transportation, allowing him to work evenings and weekends, if he chooses.

Mr. R. Whigham

We waited for a long time to hire someone for this position, we are very happy to have Mr. Whigham with us.”

- Supervisor, Senior Citizens Council of Greater Augusta

Mr. Whigham is an experienced Accountant with extensive knowledge and Master’s degree, but like so many Georgians, struggled to find employment. After being diagnosed with a debilitating illness that affected his communication, speech and energy levels, Mr. Whigham found it difficult to continue on his career path, but aspired to re-enter the workforce.

In April, 2018, Mr. Whigham was referred to the Georgia Disability Employment Initiative (DEI) team after visiting the Augusta Department of Labor (DOL) Career Center Office for employment services. The DEI team started working with Mr. Whigham to identify his needs and barriers to employment and quickly moved to provide active resource coordination. Through this service coordination, Mr. Whigham was provided with vocational rehabilitation (e.g., counseling and guidance, assistive work evaluation and assistive work technology, etc) and Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Title I services (Workforce services). Once the DEI team secured an employment site, WIOA Title I coordinated for work experience services and also provided a transportation stipend to support his commute to work. The coordination of all of these services provided Mr. Whigham the opportunity to successfully re-enter the workforce.

As of February 1, 2019, Mr. Whigham is employed by the local Senior Citizens Council as their bookkeeper, earning a salary of \$12.00/hr. Mr. Whigham’s Supervisor reports that he is now responsible for writing checks for various bills as needed, managing payroll checks, and reviewing all accounting items, among other tasks. Mr. Whigham is more confident and equipped to apply his skills and experience to this new work environment.

