

Van Modifications Give Man with Disability the Freedom He Needs to Join the Working World

In honor of Muscular Dystrophy Awareness Month, Vocational Rehabilitation shares one man's journey up the company ladder.

New Port Richey, FL ([PRWEB](#)) August 23, 2016 -- The ability to get into a car and drive to work may be one that most people take for granted – but not Henry Eichner.

Henry has spinal muscular dystrophy, which causes progressive muscle weakness and loss of muscle mass. Since the condition makes it difficult for him to walk, he uses a wheelchair — but he had a hard time finding a vehicle that accommodated the chair. Without a reliable method of transportation, Henry struggled to find work. That's when he went to Vocational Rehabilitation, a federal state agency that helps people with disabilities get or keep jobs. Henry met with VR Counselor Lindsay Braun, who immediately impressed by Henry's determination to find a job.

“Henry came in and was motivated,” she says. “He has many obstacles, but it's like he doesn't even see them.”

Lindsay helped him get the funding he needed to modify his van. The modifications include hand controls and a special driver's seat that makes it easier for Henry to get in and out of the vehicle.

“The van has literally changed my life,” Henry explains. “It has helped me get where I need to go. There's no way people can afford large items like these without help from VR.”

Lindsay also set him up with Job Coach Denise Szulis at Placement Solutions, a nonprofit organization that helps people with disabilities find work. As they looked for the right job, Placement Solutions hired a new job coach and their workload increased. They suddenly needed office help. Rolly Otero, Office Manager at Placement Solutions, noticed that the perfect job candidate was already on their list: “We looked at Henry and realized he was qualified for the job.”

He's been an exemplary employee ever since. “Henry has been superlative,” Rolly says. “He is highly motivated and works well on our team. We've already given him one raise, and it looks like he'll get another soon.”

Henry is grateful for the chance to help others with disabilities: “I love the people I work with. My job is perfect because it's something I wanted to get involved with. I wanted to help people with disabilities in any capacity, and I am. This is near and dear to my heart.”

Rolly believes Henry's success on the job shows that people with disabilities can be reliable employees. “Employers should be willing to hire people with disabilities because people with disabilities know they have to prove themselves, so they work twice as hard. They also have the skills needed for the job. Some of them have been out of the workforce for a while, but we train them and give them support so they can learn the job. They're also very loyal to their employer for giving them a chance.”

Henry was given a chance, and he's making the most of it.



About Vocational Rehabilitation

Florida's Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) is a federal-state program committed to helping people with disabilities become part of America's workforce. The employer-focused website, <https://abilitieswork.employflorida.com/>, allows businesses to search at no charge for employees who are ready to go to work, as well as to post available jobs. VR has 90 offices across Florida, and last year helped 5,760 Floridians with significant disabilities find or keep a job. For more information about VR and its services, call (800) 451-4327 or visit <http://www.Rehabworks.org>.



Contact Information

Rachel Smith

Vocational Rehabilitation

<http://rehabworks.org>

+1 (850) 245-3415

Online Web 2.0 Version

You can read the online version of this press release [here](#).