

Success Story: Brian Samuels

Brian Samuels has perseverance. After the loss of a close relative and numerous unsuccessful attempts to gain employment on his own, Brian decided it was time to approach the Division of Rehabilitation Services (DORS) for assistance. His DORS counselor, Pearl Ojiera, recognized Brian's strong employment potential along with his need to regain self-confidence.

In December 2011, Ms. Ojiera referred Brian to Work Adjustment Training (WAT) services. Brian saw WAT as an opportunity to "earn a bit of money while seeing if I was really ready to work again." He

began training in January 2012 in Sinai Hospital's Kitchen. There, Brian washed dishes, prepped food, and often functioned as a "floater" in the kitchen. Brian felt that WAT "made him respect work, take work seriously, and not take it for granted." Through job readiness training sessions, Brian learned "techniques to apply

for jobs, to update his resume, and to use the internet to job search."

Brian completed WAT in May 2012, entering an active job search with VSP's Job Placement service. With prior ServSafe Certification in hand and training experience, Brian was ready to obtain a job in the food service industry.



Brian (Right) with VSP Placement Specialist, Frederick Keene

Brian interviewed with numerous large and small employers, yet he was not hired. Brian and his placement specialist discovered that through temporary, short-term jobs at local hospitals and hotels, Brian could

gain more current food service experience, making him more attractive to potential employers. In January 2013, Brian was offered a permanent position with Aramark as a cold food cook at a local Blue Cross Blue Shield office. While he is more than satisfied with this current position, Brian has long-term plans to obtain both his commercial driver's license in order to gain employment with the MTA and to acquire automotive diesel mechanic certification.

