

Success Story:

Mike Wicker



C.S. Patterson signed a Supported Employment Letter of Agreement with the Division of Rehabilitation Services in 2005. With this agreement, the agency set a path to follow the Employment First initiative. C.S.

Patterson's first supported employment placement occurred with Mike Wicker. Mike is described as a happy individual who loves to meet new people. At the time of his placement, Mike lived in public housing with his mother. After a long illness, his mother passed away and Mike remained in the same home with his older brother. However, after Mike was attacked on a bike in his neighborhood, he and his brother decided it was time for him to move. C.S. Patterson had another man seeking a roommate and Mike transitioned into supported living in 2006. Mike takes great pride in his home and likes for it to be clean and tidy. After work every day, he completes various household tasks.

Mike obtained employment at Ryan's steakhouse in Dyersburg on October 25, 2005 as a dishwasher assistant. Mike enjoyed his job and management was extremely happy to have him as an employee. Mike even prepared to make a career at Ryan's, but it closed down. As Mike had been an exemplary employee, it was not difficult for him to find new employment.

On February 25, 2008, Mike began work at Country Mart as a grocery stocker. The Country Mart management team remarked that he does a wonderful job organizing shelves, scanning aisles at the store, picking up stock left by customers and putting it back in the correct location. He also removes stock to clean shelves and replaces it neatly. Most employees are excited about holidays off work; however, Mike always asks his boss if he can work holidays. Management is very complimentary of the work ethic he exhibits each day.

Mike is a true example of how work can change someone's entire life. He has worked consistently for almost 9 years and does not require a job coach. Mike loves to work and rarely misses a day. Congratulations Mike and keep up the great work!