

Success Stories



EFILP

Brian Ware

- x At 17, Brian was in a bad place. Battling the effects of early childhood trauma, years in foster care and a number of placement facilities, he faced a decision of whether to run or stay. His life changed when he found a home in transitional housing with New Connection and eventually meeting HRDF and signing up for EFILP.
- x Together, they began the work of helping Brian to stabilize his life and chart a course for the future. With HRDF, they found a community who not only believed in Brian's potential, but was ready to help him meet his goals.
- x Participating in the EFILP program has helped Brian to create new friendships, learn new skills, and explore options for his future. Looking back, he's proud of the changes he's made and thankful EFILP has helped him to stay in school, keep a steady job and on a positive path.
- x Brian has recently received his HiSet, Brian is looking forward to graduation and continuing to work. As he transitions to adulthood, he knows EFILP will be there to help him navigate his future plans and goals.

NDWG

Danielle Dineen

- x **Danielle Dineen**, a participant of the Employment Recovery Dislocated Worker Grant to address the opioid epidemic, was a previously justice-impacted and fourteen months incarcerated individual, as well as a Recovery Point Charleston graduate. Danielle began temporary work through the grant as her region's Lead Peer Recovery Coach. Through incredible work and personal efforts, Danielle was promoted to Career Advocate. She was on the frontlines each and every day through her placement with the City of Charleston, and showed incredible professionalism and care while offering peer support and job placement assistance to her region's participants. During her time in the program, Danielle also obtained her Advanced Recovery Professional certification. Danielle was offered a permanent position with the City of Charleston as their QRT Coordinator and she accepted. She completed from the ERDWG on April 1, 2022 and began her new position with the City on April 4, 2022, earning \$53,500 annually. She is also a member of Way Makers, Hope for All, and an active substance use disorder and reentry advocate. She hopes to help as many people as she can for as long as possible. She truly makes a difference on each and every individual she crosses paths with.





NDWG

Sommer Short

- x **Sommer Short**, a participant of the Employment Recovery Dislocated Worker Grant to address the opioid epidemic and Recovery Point Charleston graduate, began temporary work through the grant. She began as a Peer Recovery Coach placed with Recovery Point and was promoted to her region's Lead Peer Recovery Coach shortly after to offer her other program participants extended peer support and mentoring. During her time in the program, Sommer earned her Recovery Coach certification, her Advanced Recovery Professional certification, and her First Aid/CPR/Adult AED certification. Sommer was offered a permanent position with Covenant House Shelter and she accepted. She now works as a Health Equity Peer Support Specialist earning \$18.00 per hour and is in the process of pursuing her Peer Recovery Support Specialist state certification through the West Virginia Certification Board for Addiction & Prevention Professionals.



R3 Severe Storm Daniel Mcie

- × Daniel Mcie currently works in Kanawha County Region #3 and is our senior crew lead. Mr. Mcie was introduced to us through a rehabilitation program. Mr. Mcie has really stepped up to the challenges and has surpassed any expectations that he had for himself. His crew believes in him, he leads by example, and has created a great atmosphere for work. He has taken the time out to learn about each individual in his crew, at any moment you can ask him about his crew and he will give you feedback on each situation. Mr. Mcie has set high standards for his successor.
- × Mr. Mcie has taken full advantage of the Severe Storm Program. He has used this program to build his confidence, sharpen his leadership skills, and obtain certificates to build a resume. Mr. Mcie will be successful in any job that he chooses to pursue. Currently he looking to work on barges or for the DOH.



R3 Severe Storm Darrell Linkswailer

- × One of the most successful participants would be Darrell Linkswailer. Darrell was a crew leader for the Kanawha County R3 program. He has had troubles in the past but has since turned his life around. He has proven to be an invaluable participant performing beyond his responsibilities. He has set a president of work ethic and proper professional behavior.
- × Darrell was among the first to start in the program. He quickly rose to the top of the class and was made crew leader. Our worksite supervisor spoke to many DOH supervisors and crew leaders, all have talked highly of him. It was reported by DOH upper management that Darrell's crew was assigned to one of the worst performing garages in the state. Since being at the Chelyan garage, the Kanawha County crew has made that garage one of the top producing in the state. It is my belief it was made possible from Darrell's leadership and hard work. Darrell has learned many valuable skills in management, received certifications for the industry, and would like to apply those skills and training to his future career. Mr. Linkswailer left HRDF to pursue an opportunity with JP Electric earning \$70,000.

Senior Works, Tina Watkins

- × Tina, a retired Veteran and proud grandmother of 2 grandchildren that she has custody of, found herself struggling with unemployment and transportation issues in April 2022. Little did she know that the Kanawha County American Job Center (KCAJC) would become the turning point in her life, providing her with the resources and support needed to reclaim her independence and embark on a path towards a brighter future.

Tina was previously employed as a private Caregiver through In-Home Senior Services. After being laid off, she was left unemployed and uncertain about her future. Through a conversation with a friend, Tina was provided information about the KCAJC. She hoped that they could offer some assistance and guidance, but what she encountered was beyond her expectations. The staff at the center greeted her warmly and listened attentively to her story. They understood her unique challenges and were committed to providing her with the support she needed.

The KCAJC recognized Tina's potential and immediately offered her employment. Tina was hired as a Receptionist through the Title V Senior Services program, and she began working the next day. Recognizing that securing stable housing was crucial for Tina's success, staff connected her with a Career Planner for housing support. Tina was able to secure affordable housing in a safe neighborhood, providing her and her grandchildren with the stability needed.

To address Tina's transportation challenges, the KCAJC helped her explore various options. She was informed about transportation assistance programs and introduced to a local organization that provides vehicles to those in need. After evaluating her needs, Tina was able to acquire a reliable vehicle through one such program, which significantly improved her mobility and access to work and essential services.

As she thrived in her role and continuously displayed a positive attitude, Tina was offered a temporary trainee position as an Office Assistant with the opportunity for full-time employment. This job also provided room for professional development and a supportive work environment.

Through a collaboration of partnerships with the West Virginia Division of Rehabilitation Services, Human Resource Development Foundation, Inc., WV Bureau of Senior Services, the Workforce Development Board of Kanawha County, UniCare, and Jobs & Hope WV, Tina's story is a testament to the power of the KCAJC and the dedication of its staff. Through their comprehensive services, Tina not only found employment but also gained stable housing and reliable transportation, paving the way for a brighter future. Her success story serves as an inspiration for other individuals facing similar challenges, showing them that with the right support and resources, they too can overcome adversity.

R3 American Job Center Kanawha County One-Stop

- × In collaboration with Workforce Development Board of Kanawha County, and One-Stop partners we were able to serve over 1000 individuals since inception in 2022.
- × With buy-in from local partners and businesses, R3 WDBKC and HRDF with the help of the Governor's Office have successfully created a functional kiosk referral system to efficiently serve our community. Within the comprehensive system our partners will provide consistent presence through digital referrals. This will alleviate additional barriers with seamless tracking and communication across agencies.
- × R3 WDBKC and HRDF created a new way to meet individuals where they were. Pop-Up One-Stops are mobile resource events we offer throughout all Kanawha County to help alleviate the barrier for individuals without transportation or internet to tap into the resources.
- × Frontline Unity Network Meetings every third Thursday to better assist in duplication of services as well as better leveraging of programs, resources, and services.
- × The HUB a place within the KCAJC providing clothing, hygiene, books, cleaning, furniture, etc.