

Success Story:

TJ



TJ has a great attitude and gives his all in everything he does. He has a successful history of working in Chattanooga's recycling program and demonstrated his competencies as an employee and team member. However, his ultimate employment desire has been to work in a warehouse, managing inventory and maintaining a work area. When he began Orange Grove's Discovery process, it became apparent TJ has a wealth of interpersonal and interactive proficiencies. He is known on a first-name basis by every CARTA driver in Hamilton County, which serves as the public transportation system for Chattanooga. He has many friends and continues to enjoy meeting new people.

As he shared his negotiables and non-negotiables during the Discovery process, it was extremely clear TJ desired to reduce reliance on others, become more independent and find an economic opportunity that would meet his interests and allow him to pursue a hobby of attending car shows and viewing antique vehicles. He has always desired contributing to a company that would match these needs. TJ and his team collaborated with Chattanooga employer Coker Tire to negotiate employment terms and logistics required for a perfect match to happen. Coker Tire company is the world's largest supplier of specialty tires for antique, classic, muscle cars, trucks, motorcycles and collector cars. Many of their tires and wheels can be found on cars and trucks displayed in car museums around the world.

When TJ and company president, Mr. Coker, first met they had an instant bond. Coker Tire immediately demonstrated a commitment to TJ as a new team member and part of the Coker family. TJ was promptly given an ample supply of Coker logo shirts that he wears proudly every day. He works five days a week, eight hours a day and earns above the minimum wage. TJ works in the main warehouse where he participates in inventory control, storage, facility maintenance, equipment upkeep and housekeeping. He has been welcomed as a full team member, established relationships with his co-workers and has become part of the Coker employee family. He enjoys his work and his interest in cool cars continues to grow.