

PAVE PROGRAM UPDATE

October 2020

SUCCESS STORY: ANTHONY

In 2017, Anthony, a US Air Force Veteran and PVA Mid-Atlantic Member contacted PVA's PAVE program in search of career resources and support. Anthony also dedicates time to caring for his mother, which is very important to him.

Anthony and PAVE Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor Genia Hachenberg, M.S.,CRC have discussed various paths forward for Anthony. While Anthony enjoys his part-time employment work with the US Postal Service (USPS) as a Mail Handler Assistant, it can be a physically demanding position and this accelerated the need for him to obtain new and more universal skills that will be both engaging and provide him with financial security. Anthony expressed interest in a career in IT, but found that many options did not fit with his schedule or future interests.

This past summer, Genia introduced him to Melwood's IT training program, abilIT. Genia thought that the program's inclusive focus on individuals with a variety of abilities and backgrounds would be a good fit for Anthony. At the outset, instructors assess each individual student to determine which track is the best fit, and Melwood also provides networking opportunities with potential employers. Given Anthony's challenges completing previous remote IT training courses, Genia and Anthony agreed he would benefit from this level of engagement.

Anthony applied in July but the program was already over capacity. His persistence paid off and he was accepted into the October session. Anthony is excited about the training program because he is developing skills in a new industry that is of great interest to him, is located close to his home, and fits perfectly with his employment schedule at the USPS. He and Genia are also working with one of our partner organizations, Tech for Troops, to secure a laptop so he is ready for remote employment opportunities. Upon completion of the course, Genia will be there to assist him with pursuing his new career in IT.

IMPACT + OPPORTUNITIES

22 Client Placements

- 15 Paid Employment
- 4 Training/Education
- 3 Volunteer



20 Veterans

2 Family Members

5 PVA Members

211 Total Placements
through October

RECOGNIZING NATIONAL DISABILITY EMPLOYMENT AWARENESS MONTH

While the 75th annual observance of National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM) has come to an end, it is critical that we continue to work together to provide veterans with spinal cord injuries and other disabilities with gainful and meaningful employment opportunities.

We wrote about this work in PhRMA's blog The Catalyst. Read the full blog [here](#).

CONTINUING TO SERVE: PVA'S ANNUAL REPORT

In October, PVA released our FY20 Annual Report. The report highlights the breadth and depth of the programs and services PVA offers our members and other veterans.



- Architecture
- Sports and Recreation
- Government Relations and Advocacy
- Medical Services
- Research Foundation
- VA Benefits
- PAVE

Read the full Annual Report [here](#).



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