



Wendy

Client & Seymour Goodwill Employee

Every day is a new day for Wendy. Her job at Goodwill BridgePointe Services is what keeps her going and gives her motivation. When asked how Goodwill BridgePointe has made a difference in her life, her answer is an honest one -- "It gives me a reason to get out of bed in the morning."

For Wendy, everyday brings a new challenge. But overcoming challenges is what makes Wendy a remarkable woman. A few years ago, she was diagnosed with Histoplasmosis, a rare infection which in Wendy's case, spread to her brain and caused substantial long-term and short-term memory loss and paralysis.

After a referral from Vocational Rehabilitation, Wendy chose Goodwill BridgePointe after meeting with several job placement organizations. Melissa Dick, a Goodwill BridgePointe Employment Specialist, assisted Wendy in applying and interviewing for several different jobs. She was looking for a job that would not only give her more hours than her previous position, but would also be a change.

And with change, comes many hidden blessings. Wendy started working at the Seymour Goodwill BridgePointe store as a cashier but has since "broadened her horizons", says her manager, Cheryl Wingler. Three to four days a week, Wendy is at the store working the cash register, sorting donations in the processing area or straightening items on the sales floor.

Wendy's job has given her independence. She recently re-acquired her driver's license and is working with Vocational Rehabilitation to get a car and apartment of her own – all things that, a short time ago, seemed unattainable to Wendy. She also purchased a motorized wheelchair which helps her work more efficiently at her job and gives her a means to do things that before she was unable to do by herself. She makes trips to the grocery store, comes to work on her own and loves to visit her favorite restaurant.

"My favorite part of this job is the people", Wendy says. "I love to be around people."

And the feeling is mutual. "Wendy always has a smile on her face and something positive to say in every situation," says Wingler. "Customers love her."

