



Success Story

ACE THE INTERVIEW AND LAND THE JOB

When John came to the North Vancouver JobWave Centre in November 2009, he needed to find work and secure stable housing. Both were required for him to continue joint parenting his two year old daughter. John was also struggling with low self esteem; a youthful mistake caught up to him and his criminal record eventually cost him his job and his freedom.

John began his JobWave journey by attending the Job Seekers' Club, a series of workshops designed to provide him with the tools to conduct a successful job search. Upon completion of the week -long program, John said he was able to take a negative situation and see the positive side. Using this new insight, coupled with his wonderful and ever-present sense of humour, John was able to continue moving forward in his journey, despite some "bumps on the road."

To reinforce his learning, John's Case Coordinator, Tina, referred John for weekly mental health counselling to assist him in dealing with personal issues and family difficulties; both barriers to his employability. Tina provided regular one-on-one employment coaching sessions to support John with improving his self-confidence and develop strategies for finding and maintaining employment. JobWave also assisted John by providing supports for interview clothing, a haircut and bus tickets.

In interviews, John's personality shone through, but he was continually asked about his willingness to submit a criminal record check. John was not comfortable addressing this question so his Case Coordinator referred him to the Advanced Interviewing Skills workshop where he was able to practice his response to this and other difficult interview questions.

"Thank you JobWave!" John said, "The questions asked (in my interviews) have been almost identical to the (ones in the) Advanced Interviewing course." With practice, perseverance and a determination to turn his life around, John has been successful in his job search. He is currently working part time with a restaurant chain as a cook/cashier earning \$8.25 per hour. Not only did he ace his interview and land the job, but within a month of being hired, he was given full time hours in recognition of his strong work performance.

When asked if he would share his story, John said that he reads the success stories every time he comes to JobWave and has imagined himself being one of them. And now he is! In John's words, "I was released from jail with nothing, [I] now have a full time job and have met all my goals plus more. I just want to say thanks to everyone at JobWave for being there for me and helping me be the person I am today. I'm going to put it [the success story] in a frame and hang it on my wall," he concluded, smiling.

Region: Vancouver Coastal
Case Coordinator: Tina H
Number: JW 232
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www.jobwavebc.com

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