

My name is Meri Gifford.

Over the past 30 years I have had several jobs in the community thanks to the help of COF Training Services and Vocational Rehabilitation.

Unfortunately, I was not able to keep these jobs because my boss was not happy with my performance or they were not giving me enough hours and I was not able to pay my bills.

I was able to make more money working in the COF sheltered workshop working on manufacturing contracts but then we lost a big contract because they moved it over seas.

I did such a good job of this that I was able to move over to the WORKS program.

COF hired me as a DSP Assistant and now I work with other COF DSPs in the homes and at the sheltered workshop by talking with the clients and helping them with things that I know how to do.

I help them with their house work like cleaning their room, assisting with laundry, and helping cook meals.

I help the clients at the sheltered workshop by bringing them work and helping them stay on task.

I work about 30 hours per week and I am able to pay all of my bills.

I support HB 2219 because it helps provide work to people who need help at work and to those who want to live in a smaller town.