

## Success Stories: Vocational Rehabilitation



# Marsha Bird



OCCUPATION: Cashier

VR COUNSELORS:  
Marjorie Gill, Ogden District



### VR PROVIDED ASSISTANCE:

- Vocational Guidance and Counseling
- Disability Treatment
- Individualized Plan for Employment (IPE)
- UWIPS Benefits Counseling
- Job Development and Placement
- On-The-Job Training
- Clothing and Transportation

When Marsha applied for VR assistance she had limited work experience and reported wanting to find employment outside of the fast food industry. Marsha also did not have disability treatment support which was greatly impacting her daily functioning and creating barriers to her employment goals. Through VR counseling and guidance, she was able to connect to a medical provider and began medication management, which stabilized her barriers.

In exploring employment interests, Marsha and her VR Counselor, Marjorie Gill, discussed her love for the Dollar Tree discount store and comfort level in this environment. She participated in a Work Strategy Assessment with Reliant Services and through liaison collaboration, her job coach, Judy Nye was able to create an on-the-job training experience. Marsha also received support from UWIPS benefits planner Farrah Edwards

to review wage and benefit information to help her make informed decisions about her employment goals.

Marsha was very anxious about reconnecting to employment after several years of not working and many attempts at VR. However, this time she was encouraged and supported by her VR counselor and job coach throughout the process. She received clothing and transportation support and began her on-the-job training experience with the Dollar Tree. At completion of the temporary work experience, she was hired permanently in December of 2020 and reports that it has always been her dream to support others in this way. Marsha is very friendly and enjoys interacting with others and she has been able to create a positive natural support system through her employment. She reports having a supportive employer, feeling proud of her accomplishments and having increased self-worth and value.