

## Success Stories: Vocational Rehabilitation



# Jerry Fewell



OCCUPATION:  
**Assistant Receiver (Stock Clerk)**

CHOOSE TO WORK SPECIALIST: Shelly Sorenson,  
Ogden District

### VR PROVIDED ASSISTANCE:

- Vocational Counseling and Guidance
- Individualized Plan for Employment
- Disability Treatment Services
- Education Assistance
- Benefits Planning Services
- Work Readiness Training
- Choose to Work Employment Services

Jerry Fewell is a young man who moved to Utah with his family from Oregon. In 2009, Jerry applied for Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) assistance, and worked on developing skills in working with computers and soldering. Despite his training, Jerry still struggled to find the right job. His VR counselor connected him with Choose to Work Employment Specialist Shelly Sorenson to help him fine-tune his efforts in securing a successful career. Shelly and Jerry worked together on his resume and interviewing skills to reach his goals. In addition, Jerry met with Farrah Edwards from Utah Work Incentives Planning Services (UWIPS) and received benefits counseling that helped him understand how he could work and be independent of his cash benefits while maintaining Medicaid.

Jerry struggled with his interview skills and to connect with employers. Shelly worked one-on-one with Jerry to develop his resume and improve his interviewing skills. Shelly was contacted by a local employer, Smith

and Edwards, about finding a candidate for their open warehouse position. Shelly let them know that she had the right individual for the position. Her relationship with Smith and Edwards helped remove barriers for Jerry during the recruiting process.

Shelly continued to meet with Jerry after his VR case was closed. “Shelly really helped me a lot in getting a job,” Jerry said. “She worked really hard with my store management to make sure that I got the training I needed and [was] being treated well. I am enjoying it.”

Jerry loves his job, his supervisor Scott and his co-workers. He especially likes that it is close to home. Jerry started with entry level tasks, but over time he developed new skills. He is now responsible for counting shipment pallets being unloaded on the dock and taking products out to the sales floor. Jerry hopes to become a full-time employee and is working hard to develop his skills to meet that goal. His health has also started improving, which he attributes to his job at Smith and Edwards.