**Mohamed**

(Mohamed)

My name is Mohamed and I work here at Pitney Bowes. And I work here in the mail room. I work with the machines. The machines print the mail and then they sort the mail. And then what I do is I look through the mail and I see if the barcodes are printed with quality or not. Before this job at Pitney Bowes, I actually didn’t work. This was my first job and after about three of four months, I passed my probation and I’ve been here for longer than a year now.

(Rachel)

Some of the folks, they haven’t had jobs before, so we give them that experience of working in a production environment and giving them the skills that they need.

My experience of working with Mohamed has been wonderful. He’s been here, I think, a little bit over a year. He started through the job skills evaluation so we trained him in through that. And he did awesome. He has a great attitude. He’s always happy and smiling and friendly, gets along great with his coworkers. He’s dependable, so it’s a pleasure working with him.

(Mohamed)

Before, I wasn’t working, but I wanted to be independent. And so I contacted VR and they said that they could help me find a job. And so I sat down and met with them one to one. He helped me fill out some applications and he gave me some guidance. And I think he sent a letter to Pitney Bowes, and it took about three months and then finally we got an appointment here. And they said there was a job opening, that they were ready to sit down with me. They gave me a tour. And I couldn’t believe it. I didn’t know what to expect, but when they gave me a tour here, I thought, this is really neat. Well, I looked at the difference between the benefits, the SSI benefits and full-time work. And I decided I that I wanted to do full-time work. I thought that the benefits would outweigh the benefit, the SSI benefits that I was getting. VR helped me look at the paycheck stub that I would be receiving. And it was a clear decision for me. I decided that I could be successful and that I would be much more independent, that this would be, that a full-time job would be plenty for me. Once I explained everything to my family, they were very encouraging. I explained to them my goal of being independent, so they were very happy for me. They just said congratulations. VR, they did help me a lot. They helped me apply to different jobs and they helped me, they helped me learn a little bit better how to communication for, during interviews. I do feel it’s worth it. I feel confident, I work hard, I come to work on time. I feel so much better, I feel good about that work that I’m doing. And when I’m done with work, you know, I put in my eight hours and every two weeks I get paid, so yes, I feel much better. I feel independent. So before, when I was receiving the benefits, you know, it just, it wasn’t a lot of money. You know, it was hard to make rent, I didn’t have a phone. The money would run out very quickly, I mean, you know, within almost the first week. And now that I’m working here at Pitney Bowes, yes, my life has changed drastically. I have health benefits. I am working full-time. My life is, as I mentioned, just very different. I plan to keep this job forever.