

Rappahannock Goodwill Industries Success Story – George Washington

In 2021, during the Covid-19 Pandemic, JJ was working as a Personal Care Attendant caring for her grandmother, while also caring for and supervising her children's virtual learning. JJ also supported her husband while he was working full-time and participating in the WIOA program attended CDL training. In spite of their best efforts, they struggled to make ends meet. After her husband secured his CDL license and a new job as a CDL driver, JJ said she was ready to enroll in the WIOA program. JJ wanted to obtain additional healthcare related credentials and secure a full-time position in the healthcare industry. JJ went on to complete the CNA and Medication Aid trainings in under 2 months and earned credentials in both of these areas. Afterwards, JJ obtained full time employment as a CNA and Medication Aid Attendant at Mary Washington Healthcare. The WIOA program has supported JJ and her family to achieve sustainable earnings towards self-sufficiency.

Rappahannock Community College Success Story - Northern Neck

T. came to RCC in the fall of 2020. She had worked at various jobs and decided she wanted to enroll in nurse aide training. She applied to WIOA and was determined eligible as an adult. Attending training sessions in the middle of a pandemic was very challenging, to say the least. Eventually, she completed her training and passed her exam in July 2021. After that, T. continued with training in the medication aide program. She earned her medication aide license in June 2022. T. has been a joy to work with. She is employed at a group home with individuals that are mentally challenged. She always expresses appreciation for what we have done for her.

Rappahannock Community College Success Story – Middle Peninsula

25-year-old K. came to RCC in September 2021. He had spent his earlier years in foster care and was convicted of armed robbery at the age of 17. K. was determined to turn his life around. He applied to WIOA and was determined eligible as an adult. He was enrolled in CDL training. He passed his RCC training and then his exam. He earned his CDL license on 12/22/21 and started a new job on 1/3/22. K. is doing great! He always expresses thanks for our assistance.

Eastern Shore Community College Success Stories – Eastern Shore

Story #1

AA is an adult participant who entered the program after being honorably discharged from the US Marine Corps with a medical discharge before completing basic training. AA had no idea what was available to her, but she wanted to complete the training as an emergency medical technician for which she joined the military. After assessing and assisting AA in researching the profession of her choice, she was able to locate a training site that offered all the specific modules she desired to meet her goal of working as an emergency medical technician.

AA enrolled in training, attended classes regularly, completed the training, and passed the state and national certification exams with high scores. AA started her job search even before completing the training and was impressed with two employers and applied. AA was hired by one of those employers and had to meet that company's paid EMT training. It was mandatory that she learn and incorporate specific company best practices, and she passed that exam as well. She is no longer on probation and is employed full-time in Richmond for a private organization as a full-time EMT, and she is elated!

Story #2

CC was a dislocated worker who lost his job several years ago. He had a wife and two elementary-aged sons to support, but he wanted to fulfill his dream of becoming a barber. After praying and talking to his wife, T, she supported his decision, and they took the leap of faith together. He enrolled in barber training and started cutting hair in their kitchen after completion. After a few weeks, his wife could not take it anymore and insisted that he find someplace else to cut hair. He decided to rent a shed that his pastor used as his barbershop years prior. He soon outgrew that space and began looking to rent a larger building, but that did not work out. Today he is in a building large enough to accommodate his growing clientele, and he has space for other barbers and stylists to come to do what they do. CC cuts the hair of all textures, at all ages, and for all genders. He can design your cut for you, or he can cut your hair according to your specifications. CC cuts afros, fades, low-cuts, high-tops, beards, mustaches, dreads, and eyebrows. You name it, and he can help you out; even if you need a little fill-in.

We celebrate CC because he is the exact model for the program. He completed training, earned his license, went to work using the training he learned and has now opened his own business. Known as “Big C da Barber”, CC says, “I can get you right with a fresh cut today.” If you’re in Cheriton and need a fresh cut, stop by Kindom Kutz and ask for Big C da Barber. He will get you right! CC takes walk-ins, but to save yourself waiting time, download “theCut” app to schedule your appointment. Prices are affordable, and customer service is always a priority at Kingdom Kutz! [Kingdom Kutz | Facebook](#)

Rappahannock Goodwill Industries Youth Success Story – George Washington

STAR entered the WIOA Youth program with multiple barriers, including language, disability, and no previous work experience. STAR worked closely with WIOA staff to create a plan to build upon her soft skills, work readiness, and leadership development. She completed financial literacy trainings which helped to increase her skills and confidence to better manage the money she earns through employment. STAR is also working with the Rappahannock Area Regional Adult Education (RARAE) program to develop her skills needed to obtain a GED.

STAR independently initiated scheduling interviews and securing employment at Walmart and at the Dollar Tree for the Associate/Cashier positions. STAR learned about various tasks such as stocking products and operating a cash register. STAR developed customer service skills with the public as well as with her teammates. She also learned about various management styles. STAR learned many things through these work experiences. Most importantly, she learned what type of position would be a better fit for her. STAR then applied and secured employment at Walmart for a stocking position. This position offers a more supportive team approach each shift. STAR is happy and thriving in this new Stocking position at Walmart.

Rappahannock Community College Youth Success Story – Northern Neck

SS came to the WIOA program with a strong passion for helping and the goal of becoming a Certified Nurse Aide (CNA) working in a Nursing Home. She enrolled in the CNA program and faithfully attended classes but struggled with the final exam and was not able to become certified. After much discussion with her case manager, SS decided to take the Personal Care Aide (PCA) program. She passed that class and exam with flying colors! She has since become employed with a local nursing home facility and has won the most valuable employee award. SS plans to capitalize on the experience she is gaining working at the nursing home and pursue the CNA again after about a year of working.

Rappahannock Community College Youth Success Story – Middle Peninsula

DK, from King William County, was homeless and unemployed when referred to us. He has been staying with a friend or family member in various locations. His parents are not actively involved in his life and do not live nearby. After working with his case manager on career exploration and goal setting, he chose welding as his career goal. He has excelled every step of the way overcoming significant barriers as he earned multiple credentials. He was co-enrolled in RCC's Power UP program to increase access to needed supports. He participated in a work experience and has now gained employment. As he prepares for his final welding class, he is on his way to earning the highest 6G certification. He referred another student to the program and they are looking at possible permanent housing options they could share as roommates. His confidence has grown exponentially and he now believes his future is bright. Once he completes, he plans to pursue employment at Newport News Shipbuilding.

Eastern Shore Community College Youth Success Stories – Eastern Shore

AA graduated with a bachelor's degree in exercise science from the University of Maryland Eastern Shore in 2021. She has since enrolled in the master's degree program to earn a degree in rehabilitation counseling. In 2025, AA's goal is to enroll in the physical therapy doctorate program to become a physical therapist.

After completing her DPT, she plans to open her own business where she will cater to college and professional athletes. AA understands that those who sustain an injury heal physically but still suffer from the fear of re-injuring themselves, preventing them from competing at their maximum level. Her ultimate goal is to serve the athlete physically and emotionally. She will hire a licensed dietician to address her client's nutritional needs when her plan materializes. With this three-prong strategy, AA will be a one-stop shop for her client-athletes.

AA's goals are high, and we are cheering her on every step of the way!