

Amanda



The Next Generation Zone has been extremely helpful for me and my family in many areas. My case worker, Bo Schumacher, has done amazing things for us, and led me to success.

I came into Next Gen, not really knowing what I needed to do to find/keep a job. I also didn't know what locations were hiring or how to find out where those locations were. All I knew was that I wanted a monthly income. The first meeting I had with Next Generation Zone was with Bo and we discussed bus passes. He told me that if I was going to get a job I would need a way to get around town to look for one and I would also need a way to get to and from work every day once one was found. After establishing I didn't drive, he mentioned that they can supply monthly bus passes. After some discussion I was signed up and on his roster, my name on a bus pass list for the next month.

Next Generation Zone also provided many classes which helped me learn how to create a resume, and keep a job. I would not have ever known these things, if not for Next Gen. After reworking my resume, Bo offered up an opportunity called a WEX (Work Experience). He told me that I could be working somewhere, but be earning a paycheck from the Next Generation Zone, so that I could be earning work experience, as well as income. That was one of the most valuable experiences of my life.

I had the opportunity to work at the East Central Community Center. This was the perfect job, because I worked in the office, as well as in the teen and kids programs, providing many areas for experience. Being provided a WEX opportunity helped me to not only learn time management skills, but also work skills I will use no matter what the job may be. I learned to cooperate with others and express my ideas in a positive respectful manner. These classes/experiences provided information and advice I will carry with me forever.

Another reason I appreciate what the Next Generation Zone does, is because they provided me with interview clothes. I thought I had the right kind of idea of clothing I needed to wear, but I continued to not get hired. When I spoke with Bo, he said that I could get a clothing voucher and go shopping for nicer/interview-type clothes, so that when the opportunity came I could present myself in a manner that was respectable for the job. With this voucher, I was able to obtain 2 complete interview outfits, as well as some individual pieces. These have been so helpful in my search for work.

I recommend Next Generation Zone to all of my friends, because they were so instrumental to my success in the working world. I now hold a job with the city of Spokane working with Riverfront Park. This would've not been possible without the help of Bo and the Next Generation Zone family.