

Renee &

CORD Coalition of Responsible Disabled

Renee, pronounced “Rainy,” came to the Next Generation Zone last summer through a referral from her Dad. He saw a posting at WorkSource and told Renee about the Summer Youth Employment Program. Renee, 22 and a single parent, was ready to try anything. She was out of work and had been looking for two years. She expressed an interest in office work and soon her practitioner found a job for her at the Coalition of Responsible Disabled (CORD).

Renee started at CORD as an assistant to Housing Case Manager, Lisa Klemme-Flack. Lisa specializes in finding housing for low income people living with HIV/AIDS. In addition,

Lisa seeks to recover deposits paid to landlords on the tenant’s behalf by CORD. She delegated this task to Renee over the summer. Renee was able to recover over six thousand dollars in deposits that might not otherwise have been collected. The collected money was then put back into the REACH housing fund to assist other clients with deposits and fees. Lisa hopes to find another volunteer like Renee to help her again recover deposits this fall. “Renee dove right in and did a great job,” Lisa said.



Renee’s work experience (WEX) came to an end in November and she left the Next Generation Zone more employable, but still without a permanent job. In February, after applying to several jobs and going to four interviews, Renee was beginning to wonder when things would pick up. She received a call from Leah at CORD who mentioned they had a part-time position open. Leah stated that they wanted to hire Renee right away.

Renee returned to CORD to work in the Payee Department 20 hours per week. She now assists CORD clients with paying their bills. Renee loves her job and is very thankful for the Next Gen Zone Program. She is self sufficient and making big plans for the future. She intends to finish her GED within the next month and go to college to study child psychology. She hopes to stay at CORD and become a full-time employee in the near future.

