

REES Deaf Services Success Story

As a marketing counsellor for Deaf Services, I am responsible for helping deaf people actively find jobs. I offer all my consumers encouragement, a positive and open-minded attitude, interpreting and employment skills plus flexibility to help carry out their plan of action.

My own employment path has been varied and quite positive. Working at REES has opened my eyes to the issues faced by people with disabilities or health conditions - be they Deaf, a person who uses a wheelchair or have other health issues. Finding an open-minded and accommodating employer is like mining for gold – it takes hard work but there are treasures to be found!

Deaf Friendly Employers Wanted!



Philips, Dulay and Green

Kingsman Fireplaces has proven themselves to be as good as gold. When Danny Phillips and I decided to hit the streets to meet employers in person, Kingsmen was third on our list. We approached reception; Danny indicated he was interested in the Punch Press operator position and immediately we were escorted up to the Big Boss – Ed, for an instant interview.

While Danny was answering the questions and I was interpreting, it became quite obvious that I didn't have clue what Danny was talking about! I've never seen a punch press before. Danny was going into detail and I couldn't interpret for him effectively. I stopped the process and honestly stated the situation: that I, the interpreter, didn't have the vocabulary to accurately reflect Danny's knowledge, could we go on a tour and see the machines?

Ed called Mark Green, production manager, to the scene and away we went. Between Mark and Danny, I was able to label the classifiers with their proper names while Danny proved himself by animatedly describing the process and demonstrating his skills.

Kingsman Fireplaces officially hired him two weeks later. We still did some more drive arounds and resume dropoffs even though we left the building excited at our good fortune. We both knew anything was possible, the decision could go either way. Six months later, Danny is happy and Kingsman Fireplaces is happy. Both times I've gone for a follow up visit – I leave happy. The environment is filled with smiles, laughter and camaraderie plus a lot of hard work. Thank you!



"I thought communication would be a lot more difficult but Danny and I wrote back and forth a lot in the beginning and now we gesture and act out our messages. It's easier than I expected," explained Mark Green.

"Danny is a fast learner. We have no complaints whatsoever. He's never missed a day and is teaching me basic signs that we use everyday on the job," added David Dulay, Danny's direct supervisor.

