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Success Story

ON REACHING RECOVERY: HAWTHORN PLACE DAY REHABILITATION PROGRAM

My journey with Tony Miller began shortly after he was discharged from the inpatient unit at a local psychiatric hospital. Tony joined the Hawthorn Place Day Rehabilitation Program while searching for a residential placement. One of his recovery goals was to return to the workforce, so Tony began working with me in the Transitional Employment Program. He applied for and was offered a job at the front reception desk of the Lindemann Mental Health Center in February 1997.

From the very start, Tony was well received by consumers, visitors, staff and the Department of Mental Health Campus Police. One of Tony's greatest assets is his positive attitude, which comes through in all of his relationships and interactions. A highlight of Tony's career at the Lindemann Center occurred during a fire drill. The Campus Police told me that the fire alarms in the building had gone off, and Tony remained at his post to assist consumers and visitors in safely evacuating the building. Most recently, Tony also has been working at a local gymnasium where he maintains the equipment and staffs the front desk. His supervisor described Tony as a diligent and valued employee.

Currently, Tony is living in a group home in Revere. He is waiting for housing. Once a match is found, he will be living on his own. The last piece of Tony's recovery will be the time when he leaves Hawthorn Place to work in the community. This day will be a great testament to Tony's hard work and perseverance. When Tony does leave, he will be missed by everyone who has had the opportunity to get to know and work with him. For me, it is has been great gift to be able to work with someone who truly wants to recover from all of the obstacles that have crossed his path. In the time that I have known Tony, he has faced every day with a positive attitude, a gentle heart, and an open mind. Tony is an inspiration to us all.

(name and details about this person were changed to protect confidentiality)