
MINNESOTA ARRA SUMMER YOUTH SUCCESS STORY

Tim Hilpipre

Age 19

Current Job: Fairmont Medical Center, Maintenance Department

This is a success story about how the MVAC Summer Youth Employment Program has helped Tim, a young man with a heavy past of chemical abuse, criminal offenses, and school troubles. Tim faced some tough realities—from going through rehab for his drug addiction to serving jail time for his poor choices. His lack of motivation through high school put attaining his diploma on hold, and many thought he would never achieve it.

In the beginning, Tim displayed an arrogant attitude and a lack of responsibility. He showed poor follow-through and little effort. His probation officer was frustrated with his lack of communication and his frequent absences from his appointments. Tim's first attempt at finding employment ended in failure. The reality of how difficult it was going to be to get a job finally starting to settle in. A caution from his probation officer forewarning jail time soon if he didn't shape up, appeared to be the turning point.

A job opportunity through MVAC became available at the Fairmont Medical Center in the maintenance department. The vocational advisor thought it would be a great fit for Tim because of the work supervisor's previous history of dealing with difficult teenagers. At Tim's work orientation, he showed a different attitude with his attentiveness and respect. He appeared genuinely grateful for this second chance.

Tim is doing well at his job and his work supervisor has been thoroughly impressed with his work. He has been quickly completing the requirements of this program as well as his high school obligations. His probation officer has noticed the positive changes. Tim got off his probation early—after serving more than three years. Tim has also obtained his high school diploma after two extra years of schooling.

There is no doubt that the MVAC program has played a part in his success. His attitude is in the right place: "I'm trying the best [I can] to get my life straight, and things come through with time. I'm just glad I didn't give up." Tim has expressed his gratefulness for the second chances he was provided through this program. He's also thankful to have a job he genuinely enjoys and a work supervisor who has become a mentor in his life. As he finishes up his work experience, Tim is strongly contemplating joining the Navy.

