

Workforce Investment Act (WIA) Success

Cutbacks. It was a dreaded word that became a reality for Heather. In 2008, after working more than 8 years at a local non-profit organization, she became a casualty of cutbacks. She was feeling good, however, when she was able to find a temporary position that she thought was going to become a permanent position. That did not happen and this time, with no severance package to fall back on Heather, was left searching for a job that would fit her unique skills while allowing her to pay the bills.

It was during the time of searching for a new job that Heather began attending workshops and meeting with an employment coordinator at Workforce Connections.


"In my very first workshop it became abundantly clear to me that I should have been there all along," Heather says. "The game had changed significantly since I graduated from college in 1995."

Heather's employment coordinator was able to assist Heather with interview clothes, fuel and support.


"They cheered me on when things went well and helped me to process when things didn't," she says. "There was never any doubt that they all cared about me and wanted to

see me succeed"

It was 10 months into the job searching process that Heather found the job she really wanted with the Salvation Army. She says the interview couldn't have gone better, but she then received the dreaded letter informing her she had not been chosen for the position.



"There was never any doubt that [WCI] cared about me and wanted to see me succeed"



After the rejection letter, Heather says she did something she had never done before and something she learned at a workshop. She sent another thank you note acknowledging she was disappointed she wasn't chosen for the position,

but knew a difficult decision had to be made.

Later that day, she received a phone call wondering if she was interested in a seasonal position. Heather accepted. While waiting for the position to begin the person who was originally hired for the other position decided not to take the job. Heather was then offered the job she originally applied for.

"I have been the Volunteer Coordinator with The Salvation Army for just over four months now and everything is going very well," She says. "It's all because I sent them a little note to say I am still interested, something that it would have never occurred to me to do before."