



# Marley Passey



OCCUPATION:  
Cutting Machine Setter and Operator

VR COUNSELOR:  
Tim Daynes (Salt Lake VR District)

## VR PROVIDED ASSISTANCE:

- Individualized plan for employment
- Vocational counseling and guidance
- Counseling on self-advocacy
- Pre-Employment Transition Services
- Disability treatment assistance
- Vocational training assistance
- Rehabilitation technology

Marley Passey has Leber's Congenital Amaurosis, a rare inherited blindness from birth. The vocational impediments caused by this condition presented both challenges and opportunities. With her counselor, Tim Daynes, she had to learn blind skills including cane travel, activities of daily living, the use of assistive technology, and work skills (e.g. woodshop training) in preparation for employment. Marley completed the Utah Work Introduction Network, a transition to independence program created by Utah Industries for the Blind to learn independent living skills.

Marley didn't want to do the typical job that a blind person does. She said, "I want to open up doors to new industries that normally don't hire the Blind." She wanted to create and manufacture products. With guidance from her VR counselor, she agreed to a computer aided design certificate program with the

Davis Technical College. The director of the program made his machines "blind accessible." This was the first of many doors that opened in Marley's journey. Not only did she graduate and receive the certification but she received a scholarship for advanced courses.

Marley also received assistance from the Division of Services for the Blind and Visually Impaired's Employment Specialist, Chaner Conely, to provide her with interview and job searching skills. Ultimately Marley obtained a job working full-time for the Seattle Lighthouse for the Blind, earning \$24 an hour with bonuses, as a textile cutting machine operator. The company paid for Marley's expenses to relocate from Utah to Washington. Marley achieved her goals and continues to be a trailblazer for individuals who are blind or have low vision. Marley adds, "Now I'm reaching new heights, and the only direction I can go is up! Thank you, Voc Rehab, for giving me my wings."