

In the Spotlight:

Drevon
Travis

Dre has packed
more inspiring milestones
in his **25 years** than some
have in a **lifetime.**

DREVON TRAVIS WILL BE THE FIRST TO ACKNOWLEDGE THAT DISABILITIES MIGHT SLOW HIM DOWN. BUT HE HAS NO INTENTION OF LETTING THEM GET BETWEEN HIM AND PERSONAL SUCCESS.

In his teenage years, "Dre" attended special ed classes at Warren Woods Tower High School and Macomb Academy. His first job as a young adult was in a factory. However, he couldn't keep up with the pace required, and he was let go. For two years, he struggled to get another job, but he couldn't find work that he could do on his own.

Things changed for the better when Dre came to the JVS/SourceAmerica Pathways to Careers initiative. The Pathways team helped Dre discover his work interests, skills and conditions needed for employment success. He didn't drive or own a car, or know how to use the bus system, so transportation was a challenge. He needed job coaching from the Pathways team, including how to request assistance. And he needed extra time and hands-on training to learn new tasks.

Soon Dre was putting it all to work as an intern at Brandmotion. The Pathways staff helped Dre learn the bus routes, where to stand and the timing for the buses. Every day, he rode his bike to the bus stop which was followed by a lengthy multi-bus ride to work. Determined to succeed, Dre learned and mastered the skills he needed to work as a harness/cable assembler with training and support from his JVS job coach.

Brandmotion hired Dre full time when his internship ended. Today, he continues his work as a harness assembler and he has a hand in quality control and shipping and receiving as well.

And of course, as you might expect from any man his age, his first used car wasn't far behind. The JVS team helped Dre create a budget to save up for a car and helped him prepare for the driver's test.

His impressive grasp of budgeting skills has made it possible to keep his car insured and running. And, he proudly helps his mom with household expenses.

It's very rewarding to hear Dre talk about how the job has changed his life. Things many people take for granted – like eating dinner out and going to the movies – are, for him, fresh, new and enriching life experiences. And for us at JVS, the best part about helping Dre is watching how adept he's become at helping himself.

1,847 individuals
received follow-along supports to
successfully maintain employment.

3,311 people
participated in work experiences
or maintained employment with
support of JVS job coaches.

In addition to Pathways to Careers, JVS provides a wide array of services for people with disabilities to help them identify and unlock personal potential and become part of their community through enriching work, volunteer, creative and social opportunities.