

Out of Her Shell



There's **nothing**
Lawauna **won't do**
to **help others.**

Lawauna

Too often good-hearted, hard-working people fall through cracks. Lawauna was one of them. Even though she was full of love and wanted to work, Lawauna couldn't catch a break - until JVS came into her life.

As a child, Lawauna struggled with a learning disability that made school an uphill battle. Math and reading just didn't make sense to her. But when she started helping her mother clean houses, she finally found a calling that made perfect sense. She loved what she did, loved earning money and loved doing it with her mom.

Unfortunately, Lawauna lost her parents, and when that happened, her life spiraled downward. Without her parents' care, the threat of going hungry and being homeless hovered over her constantly. She wanted to work so much, but she struggled to find and keep jobs, occasionally cleaning up restaurants in exchange for a meal.

By the time she got connected to JVS, Lawauna's years of instability had taken a terrible toll. She had difficulty opening up, connecting to others, and controlling her temper. But with the patient support of the JVS Skill Building Program, which helps participants learn workplace skills and behaviors, and the Supported Employment Program, which helps participants discover their aptitudes and find workplaces to apply them, Lawauna has blossomed. She has found regular work (cleaning, of course) and moved into a stable housing situation.

Lawauna has become very comfortable around people, using her winning personality to bring a smile to the face of everyone she meets. She also volunteers with JVS at the Capuchin Soup Kitchen and Baldwin House. There's nothing Lawauna won't do to help others.

**2,447 people
with disabilities**

participated in work experiences or maintained employment with support of JVS job coaches.

1,005 individuals

achieved competitive employment through specialized support.