

Project SEARCH: Carilion Clinic

Ensuring the Success of Youth

Project SEARCH: Carilion Clinic is a one year program that provides education and on-site training to prepare youth with disabilities to be work ready upon graduation from high school. The program, which serves as a workforce alternative for students in their last year of high school, is located at Carilion Clinic, a community health care facility.

Students are chosen for the program by a selection committee made up of individuals from the organizations involved in the Project SEARCH: Carilion Clinic collaboration including the Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services (DARS) and local school systems. The Down Syndrome Association of Roanoke generously provided the funds to cover startup costs for the program.

Students participating in Project SEARCH: Carilion Clinic report each day to the host business, learn employability skills in the classroom, and job skills while participating in three unpaid internships during the year. Students actively participate in defining their career goal and planning the necessary steps to achieve that goal.

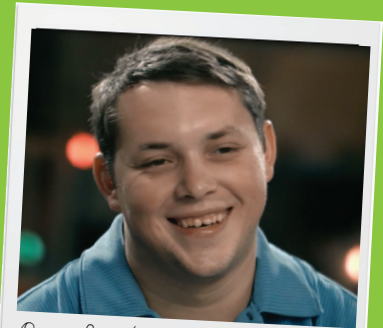
Students also have the added benefit of learning life skills, such as utilizing public transportation to report to work sites. The ultimate goal, upon program completion, is to have the skills necessary to obtain competitive employment.



Goodwill's Project SEARCH: Carilion Clinic program provides opportunities for youth with disabilities to be work ready.

Program Eligibility:

- Be at least 18 years of age
- Have completed high school credits necessary for graduation
- Agree that this is intended to be the last year of student services followed by employment
- Meet eligibility requirements for Commonwealth of Virginia Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services
- Meet eligibility requirements for follow along funding (this is preferred but not necessary)
- Have independent personal hygiene and grooming skills
- Have independent daily living skills
- Maintain appropriate behavior and social skills in the workplace
- Take direction from supervisors and show capacity to change behavior
- Be able to communicate effectively
- Utilize public transportation when available and participate in travel training when appropriate to ensure success in using the bus independently
- Have previous experience in a work environment (including home, school, volunteer, or paid work)
- Pass drug screen, felony check, and have all immunizations up to date
- Desire and plan to work competitively in the community at the conclusion of the program



Ozzy found a job he enjoys after the Project SEARCH program.

Ozzy Shively's Goodwill success story begins with Project SEARCH: Carilion Clinic. The program gave Ozzy hands-on work experience through a Carilion Clinic internship. This real world experience helped Ozzy transition from high school, where he had become so familiar and comfortable, to working, earning a paycheck, and gaining greater independence. Ozzy received tools and training through the program that enabled him to get a job at the Roanoke SPCA where he has a competitive salary.

"Goodwill helped me find a job. I love my job at SPCA."



For more information on
Project SEARCH: Carilion Clinic:
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