



MILITARY & VETERANS SERVICES

Helping a Veteran Get Back on His Feet

By Kim MacGregor

CHESTER had served in the Army for eight years. Since returning from deployment, he was having difficulty readjusting to civilian life. He had filed for divorce, was homeless, and staying with various friends while in transition. He was also struggling to find a job, particularly because he lived in a rural area and had no transportation to get to and from interviews.

A turning point came when Chester attended a special event for veterans. There, he visited a table where he learned about Easter Seals Community OneSource program, which provides personalized supports to help veterans, mobilized reservists and their families at no charge. Soon after, Easter Seals Employment Specialist Nita Renfrow met with Chester to see how she could help.

“Many veterans like Chester are either unaware of the range of veteran benefits and choices available to them, don’t know how to access them, or are reluctant to ask for help,” Renfrow says. “We help them bridge that disconnect.”

In Chester’s case, Renfrow determined he simply needed to make a more professional impression on potential employers. She helped him obtain some new clothes that would be appropriate for job interviews. She also worked with him to improve his resume.

Turned out, it was just what Chester needed. Within 10 days of contacting Easter Seals, he landed a job at a local Wal-Mart—walking distance from where he was staying.

Three months later, Chester has not missed a day of work, and he has been honored as an Employee of the Month for his service. He says he loves working and is grateful to Easter Seals for supporting him during a difficult time.

“I had been on a lot of interviews that had been unsuccessful before,” he says. “Easter Seals helped me get back on my feet.”



Chester