

NAMI Metro Suburban IPS NEWS & NOTES

Individual Placement and Support (IPS) is an evidence-based approach to assist persons with mental illness attain and maintain competitive employment.

"In the world of business, the people who are most successful are those who are doing what they love." - Warren Buffett

Employer Spotlight: **United Service Company**

NAMI's Individual Placement and Support (IPS) program has been able to assist local businesses with their hiring needs. IPS is unique in that it facilitates the connection between quality, pre-screened candidates and local employers.

UnitedService[™]
Companies

Creating partnerships with local businesses is, ideally, a mutually beneficial endeavor. Considering United Service Companies is in a market that often is left without recruiting assistance, collaborations with organizations like NAMI help contribute to the diversity of the applicant pool and responsiveness with the overall recruitment process. Our partnering hiring manager had this to say about our IPS clients:

"We don't consider them [IPS applicants] any differently. They are held to the same standards as all other candidates."

Comments, like the one above, illustrate how well prepared our clients are when applying for positions. With the guidance of our employment specialist, our clients find their way to the top of the hiring pile, without any special considerations due to their mental illness diagnosis.

Occasionally, accommodations are requested by employees. An IPS client that requested an accommodation be made, was recently hired by United Service Companies. The hiring manager had this to say about the situation,

"He [IPS client] stated that he had an obligation on Sundays and that he was looking for a small number of hours initially, as he was re-entering the workforce after some time. The business model of United Service Companies allowed for these accommodations. Considering there are a number of part-time positions available, it was relatively easy to work with these requests."

Understanding and accommodating businesses, like United Service Companies, greatly aid NAMI's IPS efforts in placing individuals in competitive employment positions. Not all clients request accommodations, but when they do, it becomes a rewarding experience to both satisfy an employer through aiding their hiring needs and help an individual living with a mental health condition gain access to a job.

United Service Companies is constantly looking for trustworthy, hardworking, and determined applicants to fill a number of positions. The United Service Companies' connection to NAMI's IPS program has expanded the pool of qualified and competitive applicants that are now applying for open positions within their organization. To view available positions at United Service Companies, please visit their [website](#).

Through this partnership we have been able to place clients in competitive employment opportunities that aid their overall recovery. We urge other local businesses to partner with our organization to create other success stories such as this one. If you would like more information, please visit our [webpage](#) or contact [LaDora Robinson-Locke](#), IPS Employment Specialist.

Candidate Spotlight: **Larry Trieber**

Finding a job is not easy, especially while working on recovery from a mental illness. At NAMI Metro Suburban, we have many strong candidates and are excited to highlight one individual who has found success within our IPS program.

Larry Trieber has embarked on his next step in recovery from mental illness through pursuing a competitive employment position at United Service Companies (USC). For Larry, being offered a position at USC has been



an incredibly rewarding experience,

"Things have been much better. Working for United Service Companies has taken me, financially, from red to black. Having good, flexible hours has made a difference in my recovery."

Seeking competitive employment opportunities is a difficult process. However, with the assistance of IPS services and utilizing the connections our Employment Specialist possesses, the process of getting back into the job market is slightly eased.

"It was hard getting back into the job market. I sent a number of resumes to multiple businesses without much response. Once I began working with LaDora, she had the connections to employers that I was missing out on. LaDora was able to provide reassurance that there are possibilities out there; you just have to be patient."

One of the greatest challenges of joining the job market while living with mental illness is that working on recovery is also a full-time job. Therefore, occasional accommodations need to be made in order to keep an individual on their path toward full recovery. Larry was able to work directly with his hiring manager to devise a schedule that was going to be conducive to both parties. Luckily, United Service Companies had a number of opportunities that would be able to work with Larry's requests.

Recovery is certainly not a linear path and sometimes clients working on maintaining good mental health can experience bad days that make them question their dedication to recovery. Larry has been able to identify motivational factors such as his daughter, family members and occasionally has to tell himself to, *"Get the lead out and move!"*.

Experiences like Larry's are the reason why IPS is so successful. Individuals with a lived experience become empowered through employment opportunities that not only better their financial state, but also provide them with the motivation necessary to continue working towards full recovery!

Want to get to know some of our other candidates? We currently are connected with many enthusiastic individuals in search of employment opportunities. To learn more about our available candidates, please email [LaDora Robinson-Locke](#) or check out our [IPS page](#).

SAVE THE DATE IPS HR FAIR



As IPS continues to grow at NAMI Metro Suburban, we look forward to presenting our first **HR FAIR on Friday, September 25th, 2015 from 9:00a - 12:00p**. The event will address Mental Illness in the Workplace.

For more information, please send an email to LaDora Robinson-Locke, lrolocke@namimetsub.org.


Big Picture Goals, Current Results

We are working hard to connect employers with individuals. With your help, our NAMI IPS employment specialist has had **27 individual job starts** in just 6 months! **Two** of our clients are also approaching their **one year anniversary**.

It would be an understatement to say that our year is off to a great start. None of this would be possible without the support of local businesses and other agencies participating in the employment of persons with disabilities.

We are always looking for available employment positions. Contact our [employment specialist](#) today to learn more about partnerships with NAMI IPS and how our diverse client base can expand the diversity in your organization.

Visit our [IPS page](#) with more information on our job candidates, goals, and successes!

 Send to a Colleague

Stay Connected.



816 W. Harrison St, Oak Park, IL • 708.524.2582