

United Way Program Testimonial

Agency: SCARC, Inc.

Program: Life Skills Development Level 3 (Adult Day Training Facility Based)



Good Friends and a Good Job

Hello! My name is Berna Dorsey and I attend the SCARC, Inc. day program. I live at home with my mother and sister and have been attending SCARC since 1977, when it first opened!

I live about seven miles from SCARC, in Sumter County. Fortunately, I receive reliable transportation services to and from work, because I cannot drive. I use my wheelchair at work and my walker at home. I enjoy the morning and afternoon rides with Roy, my bus driver and friend. Roy keeps everybody happy.

I work five days a week to earn my paycheck. I work on a Production Crew, folding cardboard inserts. A local industry contracts with SCARC, Inc. to fold cardboard inserts that are placed in packing boxes to ship their products. I am a hard worker and keep my quota high. My trainer, Maxie, and I set work goals once a year that help me earn a higher paycheck or improve my "work life" in some other way. I have been good friends with Maxie for a long time. We go back many years.

I also attend Adult Basic Education class once a week at SCARC. I set my own goals for class. This year, I chose to learn three new computer programs on the touchscreen computer (which I did), cook a variety of foods (which I did), exercise with "Sit Tight" (did that), create many crafts (which I love) and improve my money handling skills (did great). My instructor, Janis, works with me and offers friendly help whenever I need it.

I do have some physical problems, so at home I depend on my friend and Personal Care Assistant, Annie. Annie helps me to look really nice for work and church. Annie knows how to fix my hair in the latest styles and pick out cute clothes. I like to match my jewelry to my outfits.

Speaking of jewelry, I have a jewelry business. I use some of my paycheck to buy beading supplies. At home, and at work when I have a chance, I create beaded necklaces with earrings to match. I make up my own designs. I sell my jewelry at work and at church. It is a good business. If for some sad reason SCARC were to ever have to close the doors, I would sell necklaces.

However, I would rather keep doing exactly what I am doing right now at SCARC until I retire. Good friends and a good job make my life a very good life.