



“In our world today... situations change, management changes, people lose jobs, people find jobs. These facts are true for those who may have a disability and for those who do not.”

## Resources

There are a number organizations that can help in your employment journey.

- **Alabama Department of Rehabilitation Services (ADRS)** 800-441-7607 [rehab.state.al.us](http://rehab.state.al.us)
- **Alabama Council for Developmental Disabilities (ACDD)** – 800-232-2158 [acdd.org](http://acdd.org)  
Alawin Wanda Berry – 205-408-8778
- **Social Security Administration**  
Pass Cadre – 800-254-9489  
[WorkSupport.com](http://WorkSupport.com) – 804-828-1851
- **Griffin Hammis Associates**  
Corey Smith 267-221-8041  
Cary Griffin 406-273-9181  
[griffin-hammis.com](http://griffin-hammis.com)
- **Tango Consulting**  
[Tangoresults.com](http://Tangoresults.com)  
Katherine Carol 303-861-5256
- **AL-APSE**  
ByronWhite – 334-353-7713
- **Full Life Ahead Foundation**  
Tammy Moore – 205-439-6534  
[FullLifeAhead.org](http://FullLifeAhead.org)

[FullLifeAhead.org](http://FullLifeAhead.org)

## The Benefits of Work

### Amanda's Guide to Success



# Full Life Ahead

FOUNDATION OF **H.O.P.E.**

2908 Clairmont Ave. South  
Birmingham, AL 35205  
205.439.6534

[FullLifeAhead.org](http://FullLifeAhead.org)

## The Benefits of Work

**Why Work?** Working is about more than just a paycheck. It has the greatest impact on life. It gives you the opportunity to achieve goals and more importantly – dreams! Just because you happen to have a disAbility doesn't mean you can't contribute to the community through meaningful employment.

Working allows you to consider possibilities such as:

- Can I live on my own?
- How will I develop a positive network of friends?
- Will my community accept me and allow me to be involved?
- Working not only helps you answer these questions, but it also helps you realize what you want in life. Some benefits of working are:
  - Obtaining wages and benefits
  - Opportunities for advancement
  - Community involvement
  - Potential for friendships
  - Personal satisfaction
  - Financial security

This handout will help you find the people and agencies that can help you in achieving these goals.

## Amanda's Story

Amanda wakes up every day excited to have a job, excited to see her fellow employees and excited to see the customers she will meet. She works as a Cashier with a national home improvement store in her community.

Approaching two years with this employer, she has been chosen "Employee of the Month" and is often praised by her management team for her promptness, dependability and her attitude. A manager has said, "Amanda inspires me to come to work every day!"

Amanda always has a smile. She remembers your name, your face and pretty much everything you tell her. She will be delighted to see you "next time."



## Amanda – continued

Since high school, Amanda has had several jobs—all interacting with the public. She has made mistakes and sometimes had to accept the consequences, but never allowed these to stop her. She has been willing to take a chance. She will apply, apply, interview, interview... be herself... and ultimately allow her strengths to overshadow her weaknesses. Her **H.O.P.E. Support Team** has helped her find some leads and she has found some on her own.

Amanda has Asperger's Syndrome which has presented many challenges. She has had to learn many things to be able to function in the adult world. We all do. Some of us learn sooner or easier than others—but we all must learn.

She still needs supervision, encouragement and reinforcement to help her stay on track and be her best.

In our world today... situations change, management changes, people lose jobs, people find jobs. These facts are true for those who may have a disAbility and for those who do not.

Amanda is a very fortunate young woman who happens to have what some might consider a disAbility, but others might consider a true gift. You see, Amanda never sees the *down side* of any situation—she only sees the *bright side*! There's always tomorrow!