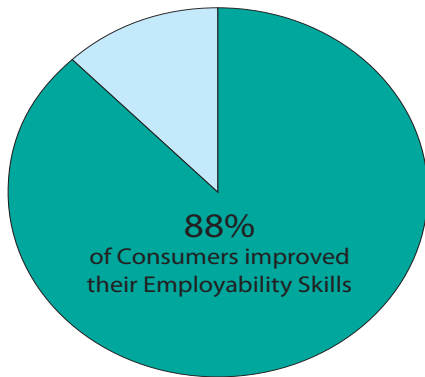


Occupational Training

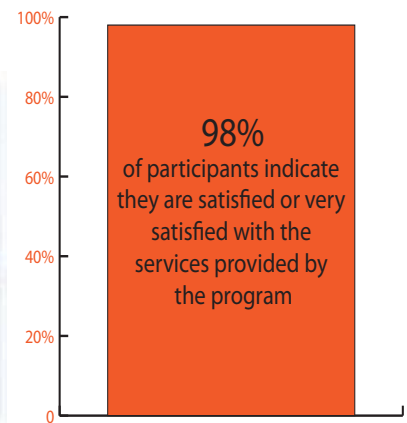
Alison came to CHAC with many challenges. Among them was debilitating anxiety, preventing her from interacting in a positive way with society. Everyday activities relating to self-care skills were a huge challenge. After 20 years of receiving CHAC Community Living and Occupational Training services, Alison has surmounted some incredible obstacles. Staff worked with Alison to overcome deep fears that served as barriers to employment. They assisted Alison to maintain focus, follow directions, and behave appropriately with supervisors. The process of developing and retaining these skills took a great deal of time



and effort. Alison struggled with the concept of constructive criticism. Staff helped her cope and to understand that she did not have to react in a defensive manner. Alison was given the opportunity to explore different options and find the type of employment that best suited her as an individual. She recently made the choice to move out of the occupational setting and begin a career with TJ Maxx. Staff worked with Alison to help her negotiate a professional workplace and she has done very well for herself. She developed a new willingness to work with authority figures, complete the task at hand and try new things. Her new position has allowed her added income and the confidence of success.



Her confidence has led her to develop new interests like weaving and participating in artistic prospects like Artisans in Harmony through Church of the Palms. Alison has become a new woman, independent and excited about her world and the new opportunities that it has to offer.



Occupational Training (OT) offers real-world, hands-on, employment-building and life-enrichment opportunities to help adults with significant and multiple disabilities to build rounded, productive lives. Each participant is provided with choices of wide-ranging skill training options to aid in mapping their Individualized Futures Plan. The Plan includes employment; supported community living arrangements; transportation services, participation and inclusion in regular social, recreational, volunteer and wellness activities/events. OT offers over 20 vocational/skill training programs to enable participants to have hands-on, paid, work experiences with local employers who subcontract work to OT (commensurate wages based on prevailing wage studies that meet Federal Wage and Hour Standards). They learn to adapt to the workplace, interact successfully with co-workers, learn business/communication etiquette and obtain functional skills necessary to transition into a job with a local employer when ready. The Occupational training program helps eliminate obstacles that prevent equity and quality of life for people with disabilities.