

## **National Disability Employment Month Success Stories**

### **Sidney Owens**

Sidney Owens is a native of Wynne, Arkansas. During school, he had difficulty in comprehension and issues with social skills. However, with the help of devoted teachers, he was able to beat the odds. In May 2002, Sidney graduated from Forrest City High School. After graduation, he became withdrawn and stayed indoors mostly. However, he would assist his parents with their needs. Sidney admitted that those were some sorrowful years. Then, in 2013, he contacted Arkansas Rehabilitation Services for assistance. Sidney was found eligible and was provided multiple services over an extended period. From 2013-15, he attended the Cross County Special Workshop for Vocational Training and completed it in good standing.

Today, Sidney works for Hays Grocery Store in Wynne, AR as a stock clerk. He enjoys his work duties and is satisfied with employment. Since he has been employed, Sidney has been able to move into his own home for the first time in his life. He has purchased a new car, as well. Sidney is happy to be on his own now, although he still has to assist his parents by running errands and providing needed care. Sidney's hobbies include playing basketball, video games, and going out with friends.

Finally, Sidney said that he is first most thankful to God for giving him the grace to persevere over many life challenges. He is

extremely grateful for the assistance that he has received from AR Rehabilitation Services. All ARS services and training has inspired him with enough dedication and hard work for employment, self-reliance, and satisfaction. He wants to thank Arkansas Rehabilitation Services for all the support they have shown him.



*Sidney at his job with Hays Grocery Story in Wynne.*