



## Pre-ETS Students Gained Work Experience through Summer Work Experience Program

*While summer is a time of leisure for many, a number of Pre-ETS students have spent their time getting crucial experience via summer work experience programs*

BNAFSH, Inc., a proud vendor for the Department of Aging and Rehabilitative Services (DARS), is delighted to highlight its successful engagement with 70 students during the summer in Northern Virginia. These students participated in diverse summer work experience programs across various settings, such as community centers, car dealerships, public agencies, animal hospitals, senior living facilities, and independent employers. Through these opportunities, our participants gained invaluable insight into sales, inventory management, automotive parts supply and community engagement. Our dedicated job coaches played a pivotal role by providing warm and supportive guidance, along with exceptional career advice and job-coaching services. The training and skills acquired by our participants during this period not only delivered a high-quality experiential foundation but also paved the way for potential long-term and successful careers.

Among the inspiring success stories are three outstanding placements:

Jeffrey: Completed a two-month summer work experience program at Honda Dealership in Alexandria, VA. Jeffrey and his family expressed their profound satisfaction with the program and Jeffrey's father, Tom, acknowledges, "This summer program has had an overwhelmingly positive impact on Jeffrey. We are truly grateful for the focused support and assistance he has received." Jeffrey himself credits the internship at the Honda Dealership for enhancing his inventory management skills and sparking a keen interest in pursuing a career in this field.



Sophie: Sophie's experience at the William Ramsay Recreation Center, Alexandria was transformative. Having the chance to work with children for the first time, Sophie reflects, "I feel much more comfortable working with kids and working alone in stressful environments.", Sophie also mentionend that she is feeling much more enthusiastic and comfortable about future job opportunities. Sophie's father, Eric, says, "I feel better about Sophie being able to work than before, after going through with this program and the help that was provided for Sophie at her job site." Sophie was always looking forward to receiving her WEwage paychecks through BNAFSH, that she worked hard for everyday at the Recreation Center.



Jaron: Jaron's involvement in a summer work experience with the Fairfax County Forest Management Department allowed him to contribute positively to the environment. His mother, Amy, expresses gratitude, "We extend our heartfelt appreciation for your support and encouragement in mentoring Jaron. Your patience and dedication to his learning journey in forest management made his experience both enriching and rewarding." Jaron echoes this sentiment, emphasizing the amount of valuable knowledge he gained during his time at the department.



For certain pre-ETS students, the summer work experience acted as a steppingstone to secure long-term part-time or full-time employment.

As a relatively new organization, BNAFSH, Inc. has proven its reliability in assisting individuals facing unique challenges. As we continue to grow, our commitment to fostering opportunities and nurturing potential remains unwavering.