



## Job-hunting youth thanks Tillamook staff



*Dawn and Kevin Haggerty*

By [CJ Drake](#), OYA Communications  
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Kevin recently was [profiled as an "Everyday Hero" by a Portland TV station](#). He was released in 2013 from Tillamook YCF after four years there and has since been searching for a job.

During a recent interview at the home of his parents in Beaverton (Kevin lives independently nearby), he described his challenges finding work. Kevin keeps in touch with several temporary employment networks and he's applied for full-time jobs with local retail and supermarket chains. So far, he hasn't gotten any follow up inquiries to his applications. He keeps a close eye on text messages from job networks alerting him to temporary work opportunities.

"Hardworking, responsible, dependable, friendly" are the words he uses when asked how he would describe himself to a potential

employer. While he searches for work, he continues doing what led him to be described as an "Everyday Hero" in the first place: rounding up abandoned shopping carts in the community and returning them to their owners. He's hoping this volunteer work will be noticed by the manager of a supermarket or retail store, who will offer him a paying job.

Aaron Esparza, a job developer at Genesis Human Resources in Portland, has been working closely with Kevin this year to help him find full-time work. Esparza, who specializes in helping people like Kevin find jobs, describes his client as a "fascinating person who loves routine." Esparza publicized Kevin's shopping cart project to local media, which led to the TV story.

"Kevin is very logical, very reliable and he's always on time," said Esparza. "He's known as 'the weatherman' because he's always checking the weather forecasts to find the best conditions to go looking for shopping carts." Esparza is optimistic that Kevin eventually will land a job.



*Kevin keeps an eye on texts that may lead to a job.*

While Kevin and his mother, Dawn, have painful memories about his encounters with the legal system that led to his sentence, they have nothing but praise for OYA and Tillamook. "I was really impressed with OYA and the support system they have," said Dawn. "I can't say enough about that facility. They handled the kids great.

They always encouraged them to do better.”  
Tillamook “helped mature Kevin and helped  
him become more independent,” she said.

Kevin singled out the following staff at  
Tillamook for helping him: Scott Barnett,  
Randy Bush, David Coulter, John Hansen,  
Kristi Hood, Mike Makinster and Jeff Rogers.

“I just like to help people out,” said Kevin.  
“I’ve had a lot of help, too. I’m grateful for  
that.”