

## A Story About the Road to Success



Everyone has their own definition of what success looks like. For some it is achieving wealth and others it is an advanced degree and a prominent career.

For “Josh” success meant being able to do to his favorite thing; travel the country and get paid for it, as a truck driver. Although Josh has a long road ahead of him, with numerous barriers, he is undoubtedly motivated to achieve his goal: owning his own truck, again.

Josh, 29, used to own his own trucking company based in Texas. He realized how much he loved traveling after high school, but he understood that frequent relocating wasn’t economically feasible so he decided to become a truck driver. Eventually he saved enough to buy his own truck. He was successful and living his dream, until one day his dream turned into a nightmare.

While working in Texas, he was approached by someone wanting to transport individuals to the United States. Josh had been approached before but had always turned away such offers. He never believed in going against the law or taking short cuts. However, with a falling economy and rising gas prices, Josh was facing tough economic times and the chance of going out of business. In a moment of bad judgment, Josh decided to rent his truck to that individual.

Shortly after this Josh learned that this individual was being watched by the feds and he was promptly arrested, charged and convicted for conspiracy to transport illegal aliens. Josh spent the next 18 months in a federal prison in Kentucky. As he was nearing the end of his sentence he had to make a decision about what he was going to do after release. Josh doesn’t have any family, no real close friends, and all of his personal items, possessions, clothing, and furniture – everything, was gone. Josh had a few friends that he could have gone to live with but he didn’t want to be a burden and wanted to be responsible for fixing his own problem.

After being from prison, he came to Indianapolis. He was given \$15 and told to check in with his probation officer. Josh found a shelter to live in and was motivated to begin working on improving his life. His greatest concern at the time was transportation. He was in a new city where he didn’t know the streets, the environment or what his options were. He went to see his probation officer who recommended he visit with PACE.

PACE managed to help Josh get a bus pass and later he attended PACE’s Employment classes. It helped him find a job so he could save money and afford his own place. Josh got a job with trucking company, ironically enough, working in the wash bay where he cleans the trucks that return every day from their journeys. Although Josh can’t drive because of insurance regulations, he still manages to keep his eyes on the future. He now has a paycheck and has begun re-buying the basic things in life that many take for granted.

Although Josh doesn’t think he’s a success story, he in fact is. He made a mistake, paid his debt to society and is now on his way to becoming a productive, responsible citizen. He is an example of what motivation and the right support service can accomplish. And although he takes the bus to work everyday, he still looks forward to one day driving his own truck.