

Partnership for Hope Waiver Helps Dreams Come True

Jessica Eisenbeis' days are busy with running her own business, but it wasn't always like this. Like so many people with developmental disabilities, Jessica had worked various jobs only to experience a workforce that wasn't supportive to her needs and she often found herself unemployed. While many of us can relate to employment hardships and difficulties at one time or another, the barriers people with disabilities encounter can be more frequent and have a greater negative impact.



Jessica Eisenbeis, owner of Yadi's Yummies

Rather than accept defeat, Jessica began to dream about what her future could look like if she was in the driver's seat. She knew her passion was to help dogs who have been abused and/or abandoned get the medical care they need and she wanted to offer a workplace for people with disabilities.

This was a lofty goal, but Jessica and her family researched and developed a business plan to create and sell healthy dog treats where a portion of the sales proceeds would be donated toward the care of dogs and in 2016 Yadi's Yummies was established.

The business plan for Yadi's Yummies included accessing the Partnership for Hope Waiver to self-direct personal assistant services to help Jessica with her employment goals. This innovative waiver serves eligible individuals with developmental disabilities who require \$12,000 or less annually to access necessary services and supports that develop greater independence within their own home and community.

With hard work and the assistance of services through the Partnership for Hope Waiver, Jessica developed wholesale accounts, sold her creations at craft fairs, farmer's markets and through online orders at www.yadisyumies.com. She applied for grants to help purchase equipment and started a Go-Fund Me account to raise enough money to rent a store front where she commercially creates and sells her one-of-a-kind dog treats.

Jessica is now looking forward to working on the second part of her dream to employ people with developmental disabilities in an environment of support and inclusion. Through hard work and determination, Jessica is well on her way to accomplishing her goals.

The Partnership for Hope Waiver is a voluntary partnership agreement between Missouri Department of Mental Health Division of Developmental Disabilities and Senate Bill 40 Boards across the state to equally share the state cost to provide the waiver. The Developmental Disabilities has participated in the Partnership for Hope Waiver since its beginning in 2010.