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# Turning A Barrier Into A Breakthrough

David came to GST Michigan Works! as a participant in the PATH program. When he came in, he was determined to create a better future for himself and his family. Like many job seekers, he faced obstacles to employment, but one barrier stood above the rest: a felony conviction that made it difficult to find employers willing to give him a chance.

Right from the beginning, David developed the tools and confidence needed to move forward. Throughout his participation in the PATH program, he received assistance with job searching, resume development, mock interview practice, and identifying employers who were willing to hire individuals with felony backgrounds.

While searching for employment, David shared that one of his greatest challenges was finding businesses that were felony friendly. He took this as an opportunity to turn that barrier around and began the expungement process by completing the necessary paperwork and working through each step. Although he secured employment before his record was cleared, he remained committed to completing the process to expand his future career opportunities.

That determination paid off.

Following his hearing, David's felony record was successfully expunged. Today, he is employed at Monroe Auto Tire in Caro, MI, and is focused on building a long-term career while working toward his dream of one day owning his own auto body shop.

Reflecting on his journey, David describes having his record cleared as "the biggest accomplishment in the last ten years." The impact extends beyond his career. "With my record clean, I can now go on field trips with my kids," he shared, highlighting the personal significance of this milestone, as well.

When asked what advice he would give others considering expungement, his response was simple: "Take time and have patience – put your mind to it, and get it taken care of."

David's story is a powerful reminder that overcoming barriers takes perseverance, support, and opportunity. His obstacle became the foundation for a new beginning and opened doors to meaningful employment, greater opportunities, and a brighter future for both him and his family.