

## 2016 Breakthrough Graduate



# Alexis Poore

Alexis Poore, of Fort Myers, had aspirations of working but her disability prevented her from engaging in effective communication with others. She would yell and be disruptive out of frustration.

She was referred to Goodwill's Pathways to Opportunity program and the Department of Vocational Rehabilitative Services Pathways to Work programs.

In September 2014, Alexis enrolled in Pathways to Opportunity and created two goals for herself: to engage in effective communication and to be her own self-advocate.

During 2015, Alexis continued making progress in the Pathways program. She worked with a Goodwill Job Coach and learned interviewing skills. Besides preparing for employment, she also had the opportunity to work on her social skills by attending Trailways Camp in March 2015. At Camp, Alexis learned to socialize with others by completing tasks and joining in recreational activities.

Alexis gained confidence and independence while working with the Job Coach. She learned to advocate for herself and use appropriate communication, which has led to more independence. Ultimately, she gained employment.

She was hired by Publix in Estero in February 2016 and was named Employee of the Month, and recently celebrated her one-year anniversary. Her team leader says she is polite and a hard worker.

Robin Antone, Contract Coordinator with the Pathways to Opportunity program, nominated Alexis on behalf of the Pathways team.

"Alexis has truly grown in her advocacy, communication and independence. She is a role model to others and a valued friend and leader among her Pathways to Opportunity peers," Antone said.

Her new goal, now that she is employed by Publix, is to be the cook at the Apron testing station.

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on me...**



*"I have learned more skills on how to keep a job, and how to hone my skills."*