

More than 30 years after getting connected with Allegany Arc, Judy Alger is still going strong, holding down three jobs that are going well and getting involved in various other services with the agency. Ms. Alger works at Burger King, the Almond Post Office, and Alfred Town Hall. She has been an employee with Burger King for over 20 years and has met people there that have become life-long friends. Sometimes her colleagues assist her with her tasks and train her if necessary. Her independence has flourished after so many years there surrounded by people she knows and gets along with.

Ms. Alger enjoys working at Burger King more than her other jobs, as she maintains more hours for more pay. "I work with a bunch of people," she said. It's easy to see why she enjoys her work, as she didn't even hesitate to say that Burger King is her favorite. Her 20+ years on the job have given her a feeling of success that she carries with her every day. One of her biggest challenges in her years working has been learning new cooking methods and how to use the appliances and utensils that go with them.

As Ms. Alger takes steps toward her future goals and aspirations, she thinks about opening her own store. She feels she has learned a lot in her various jobs and says she likes learning new things. Sometimes at her job now, she admits, she gets a bit nervous but agrees it's alright to feel that way. Overcoming challenges is a skill Ms. Alger can use in all of her future endeavors.

Ms. Alger explained that she has always wanted to be in the food service business, and ACHIEVE Career Consultants got her where she wanted to go. The program provided her a lot of help early on to get her started, and her Employment Specialists, Dan Shutt and Tim Hardy, continue to check on her from time to time to see how she is doing. She still finds all three of her jobs going well and Ms. Alger happy to be working. Three jobs is the most worked by any one served through ACHIEVE, and all staff are very proud of Ms. Alger.

When Ms. Alger is not working she likes to take fishing trips in the summer. But her favorite time of year is Alfred University's basketball season. She likes to make it to as many games as possible. Ms. Alger also belongs to the VOICE Advocacy Group, where she is Sergeant in Arms. Her duties with the group include making sure everyone is following the rules, introducing new members, and assisting the other officers. Getting her license and her own cheap car to drive herself to activities is the next big step for Ms. Alger, as she looks forward to an even more independent future in the community.