



Rose Kish first came to PWI in November of 2007. At that time, she was very shy and did not have much self-confidence. Within a year, Rose had received two promotions at work and had become so self-motivated and independent that two years later, she moved into her own apartment.

In 2009, Rose was named one of William B. Joslin's Outstanding Performers. The William B. Joslin awards are handed out annually by the New York State Industries for the Disabled, Inc. (NYSID). The Joslin Awards Program recognizes outstanding performance and personal success of people with disabilities. Rose exemplifies the objective of the William B. Joslin Award with her determination to make a better life for herself.

Chris Koehler, Senior Vice-President of Sales and Marketing said this of Rose, "Rose has become self-sufficient, and has soared to new heights." PWI Facilitator Lisa Smith agreed, sharing "Rose was extremely proud to earn her paycheck. When she worked on the maternity kits, she was proud to be helping new mothers. She has made new friends and tried new things."

In 2012, Rose was awarded the Inspiration Award by the Allegany County Mental Health Association. She was nominated by Belinda Emerson for overcoming obstacles with her health, mental health, and developmental disabilities.

Also in 2012, Rose was hired at Tops Friendly Markets in Wellsville. She started her job working two days/week and currently works five days/week. Rose works in the bakery and her tasks include baking, decorating cakes, packaging baked goods, labeling baked goods, replenishing shelves, customer service, and much more. Rose works independently and no longer participates in PWI.

Kim Tufarella, Employment Specialist, checks in on Rose two times a month. Kim said of Rose, "Rose is awesome. She is someone who never thought she would be able to work outside of PWI. Rose has an incredible work ethic and has to be reminded to take time off." Kim continued, "Rose is a great role model for other people, her unwavering determination and hard work has made her the successful woman she is today."

In 2015, Rose was named "Employee of the Month" at Tops Friendly Markets. The Bakery Manager had this to say of Rose, "You couldn't ask for a better worker. She works harder than most of my other employees. She's awesome!"

Rose is the former President of the VOICE Self-Advocacy Group and a current participant of Allegany Arc's Recreation Group. Rose has had to leave some of her volunteer commitments because for Rose, work is a priority.

Rose has learned to budget money and pays her own bills. Rose lives in Belmont and is fully independent in life. She relies on public transportation to get to and from work and dreams of one day traveling to Hawaii.

Rose's next goal is getting her Driver's License and we have no doubt she will achieve that as well. Rose Kish is certainly a success story and ACHIEVE is so proud to have been part of her journey.