

Shellbie

Unemployed to Entrepreneur

Shellbie was unemployed when she visited the MERS Goodwill office in Dexter requesting assistance with creating a resume. She had applied for many jobs and never received an interview. Shellbie enrolled in SkillUP on July 1, 2019. As Shellbie was homeless, she was referred to the local housing authority and quickly accepted.

With her barrier of homelessness resolved, Shellbie began working with Sherri Bowling, case manager with MERS Goodwill. Shellbie had attended esthetician school after graduating from high school but never took her boards for licensure. Shellbie's goal was to be a licensed esthetician and own her own business but said, "I have no idea where to start". Sherri contacted a local salon owner who agreed to allow Shellbie to do work experience in her salon to learn the business and customer aspect to prepare Shellbie for when she sets up her own station in the salon as a skin specialist.

Shellbie obtain help from SEMO Small Business Development on creating a business plan. This service was provided at no charge to Shellbie. Shellbie spent many hours developing her business plan to ensure success. On February 28, 2020, Shellbie passed her State boards and was officially a licensed esthetician. SkillUP was able to assist Shellbie with start-up money for her new business through work related expenses.

Shellbie continued to set up her business and all needed inspections during the COVID-19 shutdown. Shellbie now owns her own business, "Free Your Mind Spa".



The SkillUP program is Missouri's employment and training program for Food Stamp (SNAP) recipients. The program is funded through the United States Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service. The program is also funded through the Administration for Children and Families, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families block grant.