

## **Kenneth Armstrong**

### **From Homeless to Over the Road Trucking**

Kenneth was living in a homeless shelter when he visited the Joplin Job Center in July 2019. He had a lifelong dream of becoming an over-the-road truck driver so he could see the United States. Kenneth enrolled in SkillUP and attended the Truck Dynasty Driving Academy in September 2019 earning his CDL in December 2019.

Kenneth did so well in the Academy he was asked to help tutor new students. He earned the National Career Readiness Certificate. In December 2019, Kenneth gained employment with Covenant, a trucking company out of Texarkana, TX and delivered loads to the East Coast, earning over \$800 a week. In July 2020, Kenneth took a new position with GLM Trucking out of Rockford, Ohio and earned a \$2,500 sign on bonus and \$.15 more per mile than his previous job. He will have full benefits after 90 days.

Before this opportunity, Kenneth had only traveled from Joplin to Springfield. Kenneth also had no computer and technology skills prior to enrollment, but now he is completing all tasks by computer or phone. He loves to promote the SkillUP program and tells his family, friends and acquaintances all about how the program helped him. Everyone at the Job Center is proud of Kenneth and his accomplishments through the SkillUP program.



*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.*