

NOTHING STANDS IN THE WAY OF BEING A DAD



Long-time WAGE Center participant, Everett Rice, has more determination in his little finger than most people you'll meet. One of the most striking things that is immediately evident about Everett is his commitment to being there for his kids.

When his youngest daughter was an infant he came job searching with her in a stroller at the WAGE Center, although he already had a job. He has always been a motivated worker, often holding more than one job to support his kids. He lights up when talking about them saying, "I love my babies—nothing in the world comes before my babies."

Even when he had a probation violation in March of 2017, he made sure his kids were in good hands. He wound up in Albany County Jail until November, 2017, when he immediately went back to business. He came to the WAGE Center and Department of Labor constantly looking for work. He admits, "It was difficult finding work with a felony." So, he went to get a Certificate of Relief from Disabilities, which was granted in February of 2018. He says it "helped me restore my rights back in order to gain employment."

After several interviews, he finally landed employment with Manpower at Wineshipping in Colonie. He reports loving the job, even to the point of giving up 19 years of cooking to work at a warehouse where he has been asked about coming on permanently because of his evident work ethic.

With overtime available in his future, Everett can again build the savings that allowed him to maintain his nice apartment even through his incarceration. He is with his kids every day, enjoying his two girls and two boys all six years old or less. His oldest son is playing Little League baseball and the infant who once came to the WAGE Center with Dad is now running around with the others.

Everett's story is one of determination and hard work. When the going was tough, and it really was for several months, he didn't let it get him down. He continued to search and do the things that he knew would ultimately make him successful. With more and more people coming in with records, it's important to see that drive and determination really do pay off. Facing obstacles head on, Everett has achieved success in finding a job and in being the engaged father that he wants to be for his kids.