

Overview

Industry

Electrical Powerline
Installation

Location

Washington State

Challenge

Electrical lineman with a
high-power line injury that
resulted in amputation of
both arms.

Solution

Broadspire's Vocational
Rehab Services coordinated
state-supported training for
a new career.

Results

Former electrical lineman
now happily employed as a
graphic design artist.

From Lineman to Line Art, Broadspire Return to Work Gives Amputee New Career

Situation

Jeff was an electrical lineman working for a utility in Washington state when unexpected high winds shifted the bucket he was in. When he reached out to steady himself, Jeff inadvertently grabbed the high-power line with both hands and was electrocuted. His injuries led to the amputation of both arms at his shoulders.

Following months of surgeries and post-operative recovery, Jeff could have requested Washington state's statutory pension to receive the permanent care of a full-time aide, and collect a pension check for the rest of his life.

Action

Jeff was committed to his future, however, and to proving to his wife and children that this disability in his late 30s wouldn't define him. Even the need for that aide and driver didn't mean the end of a productive life. Jeff wanted more.

That's when the state of Washington vocational services agency reached out to Broadspire. They knew in the best of situations, the longer a worker who is unable to return to their former job or career sits idle, the less likely they are to return to work at all ([click here to learn more about Return to Work services](#)).

By utilizing Broadspire's Return to Work services and Worker on Loan program, employers and state agencies can get disabled workers back to work.

Broadspire's partnership with career counselors and workforce development boards, area community colleges and career schools, mental and physical healthcare providers, employers and their various employer assistance programs (EAP), as well as the returning-to-work employee help ensure workers find suitable and fulfilling employment.

Learn more at
choosebroadspire.com

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Broadspire's vocational counselor performed a skills assessment to help Jeff explore his options. Graphic design rose high among his interests.

Graphic design is known as a manually intensive profession. The Broadspire vocational counselor, along with state vocational rehabilitation counselors, were committed to not letting that deter Jeff's career choice.

Together, they found a program at a local community college to retrain him as a graphic design artist using the latest technology. The 18-month program with the school and a local employer taught Jeff to use his feet to maneuver the adaptive equipment, including the mouse and stylus, as well as voice-activated software, to create his designs. They also secured Jeff an internship at a local graphic design business.

Result

With school credits hours earned in both the classroom and workplace, he was able to start working upon graduation.

The new career meant more than a paycheck. It meant life stability, and even a more holistic recovery. Many with catastrophic disabilities suffer depression and anxiety; divorce is common in the worker compensation industry. Broadspire works closely with newly disabled workers like Jeff to tap their inherent motivation and help with coping skills. Kept engaged and active, they can reduce possible mental health issues.

Jeff committed to his future and his family's future and ensured his disability wouldn't define him and deliver a more rewarding future.

When permanently disabled workers can no longer enjoy the careers they once had, but are eager to return to work, Broadspire can help. If you'd like to learn more about vocational rehabilitation in your state or how your company, organization or state agency can help return more workers to suitable employment, visit www.crawco.com/services/medical-management.