## Same Passion, New Place

By CareerSource Suncoast

As a young woman, Robin Taylor wanted to be an artist. It was her passion; however, early in her career, she discovered that most artists need to make a living selling their art. So, she decided to start a side business in custom framing while continuing to pursue that passion. It was challenging to make ends meet, but working alone for the next 18 years, she kept doing what she loved, working with art.

As it does with each of us, life continues, and as Robin got older, life became a bit more difficult. Health issues eventually forced her to close the business, but now she faced a quandary; what to do? She started looking online for employment opportunities but quickly became overwhelmed by all the junk emails she got.



That's when a friend at the <u>Women's Resource Center</u> asked her if she had spoken with <u>CareerSource Suncoast</u>? Robin thought to herself, "why didn't I think of that sooner?" Before long she was talking with Kim, a CareerSource Suncoast Employment Support Coordinator with the <u>Ticket to Work Program</u>. After talking for a few minutes, Kim helped Robin build her resume, draft a cover letter, and "fine-tune" her search in the Employ Florida database.

"I had never looked for a job before, so I came into this with no idea how to do that," said Robin. "Kim was so patient and helpful; I never could have done this without her." A short time later, Kim was able to find Robin a temporary job at Mothers Helping Mothers, a Sarasota-based non-profit. The temp-job helped Robin overcome her anxiety about re-entering the workforce and build her confidence.

After her Mothers Helping Mothers job ended, and knowing Robin's passion for art, Kim encouraged her to apply for a position at the <u>Ringling Museum</u>. At the same time, Kim reached out to a contact in HR at the museum to give them a heads up a new candidate that was about to show up on their radar. It took a little bit of time but eventually Robin landed the interview and aced it! When she was offered the job, Robin smiled more than she had in a very long time.

Today, Robin still has a passion for art, and it shows as she walks through the home of one of the finest art collections on the Gulf Coast. Robin commented, "I don't know where I would be or what I would be doing today if it wasn't for Kim and the CareerSource Suncoast Ticket to Work Program".¬

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