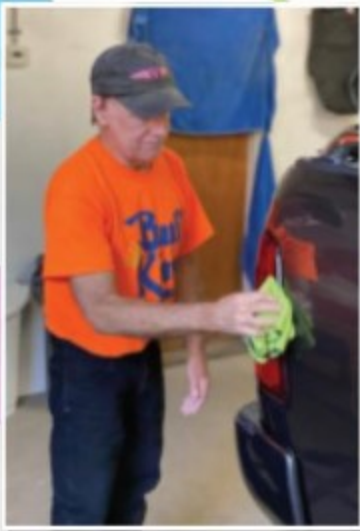


# Give A Guy A Break!

## MRCI and Buff Kings Help Local Man Thrive



Jeff Kosbab

Sometimes all it takes is one act of kindness, one moment of understanding, one big break. That's how Jeff Kosbab's story starts.

"I always wanted to work with cars, well, actually, I just wanted to work," explains Jeff, who found it difficult to find work after his Schizophrenia diagnosis. "Finally, someone gave me a chance."

That someone are the owners of Buff Kings in New Ulm.

"I have a lot of respect for him, his desire to work and his understanding of being accountable and responsible for the work he does," explains co-owner Cassie Thompson. "We just wanted to give the guy a break and I really hope he continues to make stepping stones toward a healthy life."

Jeff is making great strides toward living his best life. While Schizophrenia is a serious mental illness, it is also very treatable. While he still experiences anxiety from time to time, Jeff has learned to manage life with the diagnosis, thanks, in part, to his job at Buff Kings.

"It's great, it's a wonderful place to work. They are flexible with me and I want to do a good job for them," says Jeff. "I didn't have a job for a long time, so I am excited to get back to work. I do car detailing and finishing work for them."

Jeff earned the job with the help of MRCI's Stephanie Haas, who works in the Individual Placement and Support (IPS) program. Stephanie knew Jeff would enjoy working in the auto industry and really listened to his needs when guiding him in his job search.

"Stephanie is always very helpful and considerate, I can't thank her enough," says Jeff.

Jeff is appreciative too, to the Thompson family who have made him feel right at home at Buff Kings.

"They gave me a chance, when few others would," he says.

The Thompson's say it's been a good fit for them as well.

"Jeff seems to take a lot of pride in his work and shows that he is very appreciative of having a job," says Cassie. "He has a great attitude and is very highly regarded by other employees."

"We hired him because of his initiative and his determination to overcome significant mental health issues to be successful. We just think he is a great example for others and we are happy he is with us."



### About MRCI

MRCI provides genuine opportunities for people with disabilities and disadvantages at home, at work and in the community. Please help us with that mission by volunteering of your time and talents! Please call 507-386-5600 to make a difference today!