



SOAR Caseworker, Beth Boyette, shares client's Social Security success

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Joe came to me from the men's homeless shelter in downtown Cleveland where he had been living without benefits of any kind. Born with Fetal Alcohol Syndrome and diagnosed with countless other mental illnesses, Joe had been in and out of psychiatric hospitals throughout his life. He had lived in the Franklin County foster care system until being adopted out at 17 to a gentleman in Cuyahoga County, a relationship that quickly soured and led to his homelessness.

Joe had never worked or considered himself a productive person. He presented as a hopeless and lost individual, incapable of advocating for himself on any level. Six months after submitting his application through the SOAR program, he was approved for SSI benefits. The local SSA office even opened up a previously denied claim allowing him back pay dating to February 2008!

He now has hope for a strong future full of possibilities for the first time in his life. Joe even said now he can think about what he wants to be when he grows up, a concept he never allowed himself to consider until this point.

I believe that the medical summary report I submitted, along with extensive medical documentation, was key to obtaining this approval. Without the SOAR program it is unlikely that Joe would have avoided the long-term process of denial and appeal that so often plagues applicants for benefits.