



Alex increases skill set through CBA at nonprofit.

“We have been blessed by the [Sherwood] team of Devon and her two colleagues from Oak Harbor, along with Alex, the star of the show.”

Words of appreciation from Robert, CEO of Pacific Rim Institute, a nonprofit in Coupeville, working with local, state and federal organizations, on stewardship of the land.

Alex has been participating in a (CBA) Community Based Assessment since February. Generally a first step to employment, CBA's are done in a community employment setting with the purpose of helping an individual and their vocational team learn about their skills.

Initially, Alex would work for 5-10 minutes picking up rocks and scooping soil. With Roberts genuine concern and patient accommodations, Alex eventually worked into staying fully focused and motivated for an entire hour before taking a break.

“It has been both challenging and so rewarding to see his progress.” said Devon, Alex's Employment Specialist. She says he's learned a lot of new skills and increased his work stamina.

Pacific Rim recently had to temporarily close it's doors until the restrictions from COVID-19 are lifted and Alex's CBA has ended. Devon is excited to continue working with Alex on additional volunteer opportunities and developing his job skills. She hopes he can eventually work into a couple hours a week back at Pacific Rim when they open up again.

“It was humbling and uplifting to have Devon, her team and Alex out here with us over the past month.” adds Robert.

“I just wanted to [add] how appreciative we all are for the three team members and Alex. The work Alex did was actually very useful to us, including gathering up quality soil from some piles we had – for use in our native plant nursery beds, as well as gathering small rocks in our garden and parking areas that we use to enhance drainage on the property.”

If you are interested in learning more about CBA's, removing barriers to employment or becoming a Supported Employer, contact Sherwood's Vocational Services program at 425-334-4071.

