

## Testimony from William Epps

To whom it may concern,

Originally I came into the Carpenter's union in 2013 after completing Summit Academy. Things were going well until 2015 when drugs and alcohol took over my life and I decided to leave the union. In September 2020, I checked myself into MN Adult Team Challenge, and since then have been clean of any and all substances for four years. In 2023 I decided to enter back into the Carpenter's union. How would I go about getting back in? A viable route that came to mind was to attend veteran career fairs. I began looking at MAC-V. They directed me to attend a career fair at Target Field and sure enough Helmets to Hardhats was there. Sharing my story with Justin, he assured me there is a place in the Carpenters for me. Justin shared information with me. A few months later at another job fair being held right here in St. Paul and I see Justin again. I updated him on my progress and job leads. I then went to work. In September 2024 there was another job fair in Minneapolis, during this time it was slow at the company that hired me, and I was out of work for a month. When I saw Justin, I walked to his table and told him about my situation. My spirits were picked up and my frown turned upside down seeing his familiar face. Justin gave me some contacts, and some job leads. I was down and out but not discouraged. There was a sense of peace knowing that Helmets to Hardhats was working on my behalf to ensure I was working to support my family. I talked to the contact Justin had given me and went back to work that week. Thank you for listening, have a wonderful day, and God bless.

William Epps

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