

Growing up with the knowledge that I would someday lose my sight, I was laser-focused on gaining an education and proving to the world that my disability would not define me. This determination fueled my journey through school, culminating in receiving my high school diploma and later earning a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology. These accomplishments represented not just milestones but statements of my capability and resilience. Armed with these qualifications, I felt ready to make my mark on the world. Yet, I quickly discovered that the pride I carried in my achievements was not mirrored by potential employers. The stark reality was that, to many, my blindness overshadowed my credentials.

For nearly a year, I faced rejection after rejection. My qualifications seemed invisible in the eyes of employers who couldn't see beyond my disability. This challenging period tested my resolve. Finally, an organization gave me a chance — an opportunity to prove that my abilities, not my limitations, were what mattered. This was a turning point. Though grateful for the chance to work, I was not content to merely hold a job; I wanted to flourish in a career. My ambition drove me to seek opportunities for growth, even as new barriers emerged.

One of the most significant challenges I encountered was the inaccessibility of a critical software program required for job performance. Without access to this program, upward mobility seemed impossible. However, I was not willing to let this obstacle dictate my future. With determined focus and resourcefulness, I set out to find a way to make the software accessible. My persistence paid off, and I successfully navigated the program. This breakthrough enabled me to advance to a staff-level position as a Contact Center Trainer. In this role, I not only excelled professionally but also found a platform to advocate for others facing similar challenges.

As a Contact Center Trainer, I used my performance and voice to advocate for accessibility and inclusion. My efforts contributed to breaking down barriers for my blind and visually impaired colleagues, enabling them to achieve upward mobility as well. The technological hurdle that once seemed insurmountable was eliminated, creating a more inclusive workplace. Witnessing others succeed because of these changes has been one of the most rewarding aspects of my journey.

Reflecting on this experience, I realize that I have become an advocate in ways I never imagined. Advocacy is often defined as defending, supporting, or promoting a cause, policy, or person. Without intending to, I embodied this definition through my actions. By highlighting my abilities, overcoming barriers, and striving for justice, I advocated for myself and others. My personal determination became a catalyst for collective success, transforming individual triumphs into systemic change.

When I set out to make my mark on the world, I did not anticipate that advocacy would become such a significant part of my journey. Yet, through my challenges and achievements, I have come to embrace this role. My disability, which once seemed like a limitation, has proven to be a gift. It has shaped my perspective, driven my growth, and allowed me to contribute meaningfully to the lives of others. For that, I am deeply grateful.

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