



*Left to right:  
Marleen Martin-  
Employment  
Specialist for  
Easterseals  
Crossroads, Pamela  
Shireman, Theresa  
Koleszar – Director,  
Bureau of  
Rehabilitation  
Services and Tina  
Skeel – President, IN-  
APSE.*

## Pamela Shireman

Pam has overcome major setbacks in her life to achieve successful employment and independence, including an abusive relationship, deaths in the family, homelessness, and loss of previous jobs. Pam was raised by her father after her mother left when she was two years old. She graduated from a high school in LaGrange, Texas. Five years ago, Pam’s father passed away after a battle with cancer. Pam moved to Indiana and had a difficult time making it, especially the last few years. When she was suddenly laid off from her employer she lost everything she had. She was homeless and sleeping in her car with her three cats. During the winter months, she would seek shelter in abandoned houses. Pam realized it was time to get help and sought out assistance from VR. This is when she met Karen Jeter, her VR Counselor. Pam said she has always had a difficult time with comprehension and reads at a third grade level. Pam began working with Marlene Martin, an Employment Specialist with Easterseals Crossroads. Marlene worked with Pam on job development for a long time and has been witness to Pam’s struggle as she moved out of homelessness and out of an abusive relationship. Pam is now employed at Fort Benjamin Harrison in the janitorial services division and living independently!