

# A Self-Employment Success Story:

## Oscar & Janice Johnson

Oscar and Janice Johnson will tell you, “We are in it to win it this time.” They have re-invented and re-committed themselves to their business, Embrace Designs. While visiting family and friends in Chicago, Oscar and Janice discovered a niche business might be possible. That niche revolved around creating burial garments with funeral homes as a primary customer.

The Johnsons initially continued to work in wage employment, each having reliable and good-paying positions. Their priorities changed when Oscar unexpectedly lost his sight. Reflecting about the experience, Oscar shares of his vision loss, “It was a blessing in disguise. I can honestly say this is the best part of my life.”

They began attending conferences and shows to help the business grow. But when Oscar lost his ability to see, the business was no longer sustainable. Later, the couple heard about the self-employment program through Vocational Rehabilitation, and the business had took on a new life. Every time they are able to show the garments to funeral directors, impressions are always high. And this is where the couple shine as they build relationships with their customers. Through their warmth and understanding, they embrace the partnerships made with various funeral homes throughout the country.

For both of them, the business is about passion and “making sure your loved ones have something to wear with a genuine quality and style.” They want everyone to know two things: “Your disability should never stop you from reaching your dreams,” and “Don’t give up on what your passion is.”



[Watch their video!](#)