

WE APPRECIATE ALL YOU DO FOR COTTONWOOD
AND THE PEOPLE WE SUPPORT!



Working as a DSP at Cottonwood has made me appreciate living in Lawrence, because now I help consumers be active members of the community.
-Zane Hayden

Bryndal frequently provides support across multiple group home locations to ensure continuity and consistency of services for all individuals served. Her flexibility, dedication, and commitment to those she supports are evident in her work and are sincerely appreciated.



Adam is an incredibly hard worker! He is great at completing the weekend checklist and still finds more to do to make sure the consumers are taken care of. The consumers really like Adam, he treats them well and is so patient with them!



**LET'S
CELEBRATE DSPs!**

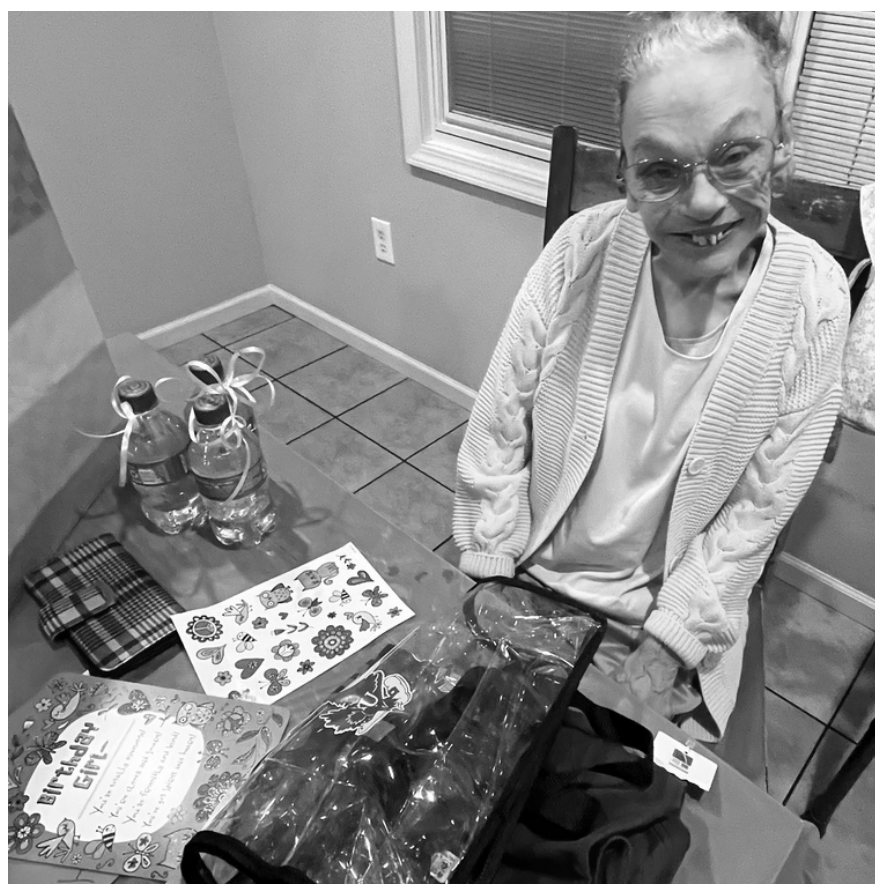
DIRECT SUPPORT PROFESSIONALS WEEK



LET'S CELEBRATE DSPs!

Jessica McCutcheon at Blazing Star takes the time to make each consumer's birthday extra special. She bakes and decorates a made-to-order cake per their request, hangs decorations and balloons, gets gifts from their wish list, and ensures they wake up to the perfect start to their birthday.

-Lisa Totten, (Residential Supervisor)



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Being a DSP allows me to be a part of something greater than myself. It humbles and centers me and gives all of us the opportunity to see amazing things happen every day.

-Penny (JobLink)



I enjoy spending time with the people we serve and building close and meaningful relationships.
-Tracey (Life Enrichment).

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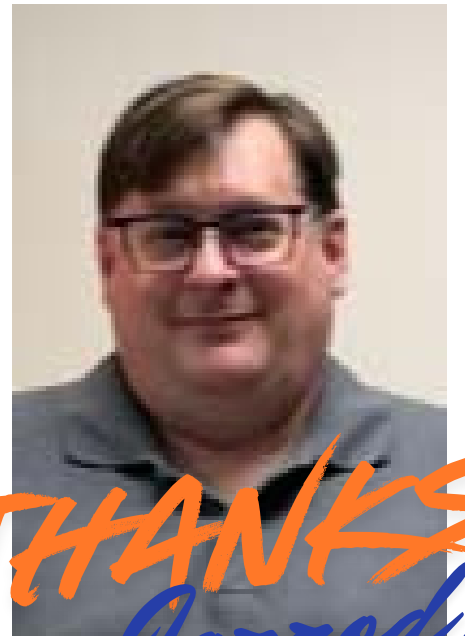
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THANKS
Ashley!

Ashley and a fellow team member took the initiative to assemble CORE's new Hoyer lift, ensuring it was ready for use when needed. Their teamwork, accountability, and dedication to supporting those we serve are greatly appreciated.

Jarrold assisted in taking a Consumer to their Parks and Rec class this evening so regular staff could stay at the house and work with new staff. He came in early to assist in other evening duties.



THANKS
Jarrold!



THANKS
Ashley!

Ashley took on all of a co-worker's shifts during their leave while maintaining her own schedule, ensuring consistent staffing and a positive experience for everyone in the home.



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I recently worked with David - I was so impressed! This guy was like a well-oiled machine! I watched him settle a consumer down, and I couldn't get to the laundry fast enough to fold it because he was always doing it. The compassion and care he showed to each consumer was so wonderful to watch.

About 30 minutes before David's shift ended, he asked me to sit down and talk about how I thought the night went...I have never had anyone do this and it was great!

During this talk I learned that David has only been with Cottonwood for 3 months...I think my jaw hit the floor! When I told David I was completely in shock that he is so new, he instantly sang praise for Jessica and her training.

I've never worked with Jessica, but I look forward to getting a shift with her and watching her magic, because she nailed it with David! - Heather T.

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Karsyn and Amy Robertson- the daughter and mother duo work on the same weekend rotation, different sites, and are always planning activities the ladies at both sites can join and enjoy, including holiday crafts and meals, fire station visits, church transportation.



Thanks for the positive impact you make for the Trail Road and Aster ladies!

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One of the most rewarding parts of my job as a Direct Support Professional is having the opportunity to care for and support other people. Even though I have a graduate degree in engineering, I have discovered that my greatest sense of happiness and fulfillment comes from helping people, being there for them, and making a positive difference in their everyday lives. I genuinely love caring for people. Being a DSP allows me to connect with the individuals I support, learn about their needs and personalities, and help them feel valued, respected, and cared for.



I find it incredibly rewarding when I can make someone's day a little easier, help them accomplish something they may have struggled with, or simply be someone they can depend on. I am genuinely happy working as a DSP because I feel that what I do matters. Every day gives me an opportunity to care for someone, support their independence, celebrate their accomplishments, and make a difference. That sense of purpose is what makes this job so rewarding to me. - Sunday (Residential)

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Sadie Crumet is a huge asset to our team. Her longevity at Cottonwood gives her great knowledge and is a benefit to new staff coming in. She finds fun things for the consumers to do to enrich their lives. They always ask when she is working next.



Hewitt Kardis has impressed his coworkers and I from the day he had his interview. He is intuitive and sees things that need to be done. He has also developed a great rapport with the consumers at Carson in such a short time.

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I take one of my Terrace House gals to music therapy every Thursday evening, and seeing her being passionate about music makes me smile!

A rewarding part of my job is seeing my Terrace gals happy and healthy!

Something I've learned from the people I serve- patience and understanding.



I think we make a pretty awesome team. Our house shows teamwork, understanding and warmth! I feel like we are a work family!

Noticing that I can make a difference in someone else's life makes me smile. Little do my Cottonwood friends know - they have made a difference in my life, too!
-Michelle,(Residential)

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A coworker that comes to spice things up at the house from time-to-time would have to be DSP Drew Diedel. He has a running bit that has been going on since Easter. Every time he comes to visit, he moves some empty colorful Easter eggs to new spots around the house. The consumers and I love the challenge of seeing if we can spot the new hiding spots.



THANKS
Drew!

Joan Baird makes all of us happy, especially her baking skills which she incorporates into the weekend schedule.



THANKS
Joan!

My favorite memory is going to Dunkin' with new staff training and Lisa . It was really nice to support both a consumer and newer staff. Creating a new environment for people is always so heartwarming. I truly love this job.



I chose this profession as a steppingstone in my career. Advocacy and helping people is very important to me, and Cottonwood is a step forward in relation to my degree.

– Jasper(Residential)

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