# PAY IT FORWARD

# **RECOGNITIONS**



**JANUARY 2025** 

#### MYRDELLA ALLEN

Myrdella emailed today and asked a question on behalf of an individual we serve. It wasn't an 'urgent' issue, and it would have been very easy for Myrdella to just say, 'I don't know' and move on. It struck me that Myrdella was choosing to make what was important to the client a priority while facing a busy schedule. I am grateful for and really encouraged by the respect and care that Myrdella demonstrated in helping find an answer.

# STACEY ATCHISON

Stacey has many roles to fulfill each day at Goshen Day (Shoots). She helps with the operations of our program and leads the team in positive productive ways. When it comes to community involvements, Stacey is always looking for something new that we can participate in. She has expanded our volunteering opportunities and attempts to pair various outings with the interest of our participants. Stacey almost always has a positive approach to daily challenges and steps in to assist staff when she senses the need for additional support. Thank you, Stacey! Your daily efforts and involvement really make a difference here!

I'd like to give a shout-out to Stacey Atchison for always keeping her cool when intense situations arise at Shoots, being on-top of volunteer outings/volunteer work, and always being willing to go the extra mile when asked.

# **JODI TAYLOR**

Connections are important and make a difference, especially in an organization like this. Jodi is AWESOME at making connections at Goshen Day (Shoots). This is not limited to but includes the connections that she makes with her coworkers and the consumers who visit our site. She has a positive and friendly presence, and many times would be that voice of reason when the 'tides' roll in. She makes connections with the people that we serve in meaningful ways. Her educational lesson plans, executed during vocational activities; sometimes makes me want to pause what I am doing, and join her group to participate. She connects with individuals who desire additional attention and find ways to give a taste of "ME TIME". THANK YOU, Jodi! - For all of the connections that you have sparked at Shoots.



### **GRACE HELMUTH**

For starters, THANK YOU for looking out for Dave-Olive! We have a couple of staff who are dedicated to looking out for our pet skinny pig...and Grace would likely be #1. There is never a concern because Dave-Olive gets attention and care from her at the start of her shift. And before she clocks out each day. She is definitely crafty and has been supportive to those we serve, through vocational crafts, as well as those art pieces that clients create for Gaining Grounds. She has been a great help with community outings. She supports us with one of our volunteering partnerships we commit to weekly, at The Window. She has also assisted with routine scheduled trips to local shops and businesses. Thank you, Grace! You have been a great addition to our team!

#### TIMOTHY HUSER

Sometimes it helps to get familiar with the community that you work in. And with "Doc" on board, we have many connections within our fingertips. He has been a proud member of Goshen for many years and seems to be committed to his job at ADEC. "Doc" has run across problematic situations (such as broken items, safety hazards, or unexpected happenings) and will find a cure. This also applies to aiding with troubling relationships between the clients and their peers. He helps to connect new faces with others who have similar interests, or just to feel welcomed in a new environment. "Doc" has started a new thing during our morning activities, with a video centered around positive affirmations. The video has a catchy tune and is easy to sing along to. I often find myself singing along, if I must be honest. Earlier this year, "Doc" was a BIG help during vocational settings. He taught those who were interested in lessons that centered around gardening, recycling, and composting. "Doc" has helped to expand our volunteering with a new opportunity to assist at The Jamaican Relief Mission. This has been successful, several weeks in, and we have dedicated individuals who enjoy helping others. Thank you, "Doc", for your support at Shoots!



#### **CATHERINE HALL**

Catherine is someone who is devoted to her role as a direct support professional and takes her job seriously. She is committed to providing quality care to the individuals that we serve. "Team Player" is definitely a word to describe Catherine. She understands the mission before we open our doors; and I witness this throughout the day (her ability to decipher what is needed at that moment, what is next in line, and what is left to conquer - before clocking out). Catherine connects well with our day program participants and actually has a couple who can become connected with her, literally. She provides support through the sunny days and through our 'storms'.

She seldom times has 'storms' of her own to navigate through and STILL attempts to give her best to the people she connects with (clients, co-workers, consumers). Catherine connects well with clients through artwork. She supports the client, individually; by giving them choice and doing what is needed, to bring ideas to life. Some of these ideas become great art pieces and in return became a monetary gain for the artist. THANK YOU, Catherine for ALL that you do for ADEC and the people that we serve!

# **DAMARIS SONORA**

Damaris has a smile and a personality that is warm and inviting. She has supported ADEC for some time in residential and day service settings...and STILL does! Because of this, she has become familiar with many clients that we serve through ADEC, across various platforms (residential, community, supportive living, summer camp, etc.) and Damaris has developed a good rapport. Damaris is bilingual and has been helpful with communicating with individuals here who speak Spanish. This was once a barrier for some staff, prior to her joining our team. Damaris is great at getting clients (who are interested) out into the community. She supports us at least twice per month with one of our volunteering opportunities at The Window. Outside of that, she will fill in the other days with meaningful trips that include educational or leisure activities. Let's give it up, for Damaris! She commits a large part of her daily living to ADEC, in one way or another. THANK YOU!



# LINUS JEWETT

I would like to thank Linus for assisting at Foster house recently, when learning that there was a need. I am not too familiar with the gentleman, so I reached out to his team for additional feedback. I was told that he is very compassionate and puts in great effort to meet the needs of the people we serve. I was also told that he is very eager to learn and always willing to assist. I witnessed this myself, when seeking his assistance for residential services. Thank you, Linus, for your willingness to support ADEC! And your dedication towards your team at The Arc. You are appreciated!

I would like to thank Linus for his support today, assisting at a residential setting in Goshen. It can sometimes be a challenge when we are overstaffed - to find support elsewhere. Linus did not hesitate to offer a helping hand and has helped at another house more recently, with the same positive attitude. THANK YOU, Sir! You are APPRECIATED! And valued

# **MARTIN SAIZ**

I would like to thank Martin for assisting at Foster house recently, when learning that there was a need. I am not too familiar with the gentleman, so I reached out to some of his co-workers to learn a little more about him. I was told that he is very dedicated to his job and knows the importance of "TEAMWORK". I was also told that he is normally eager to help out, whether that is here at this location or at other sites in need of assistance. I was informed that he is always willing to give advice and/or opinions. Thank you, Martin, for your willingness to support ADEC! And your dedication towards your team at The Arc. You are appreciated!

I would like to thank Martin for his support today, assisting at The Quad residential setting. He did not hesitate to offer a helping hand and has helped at another house more recently, with the same positive attitude. THANK YOU, Sir! You are APPRECIATED!



#### KATHRYN DUKE

I would like to express my heartfelt appreciation for Kathryn Duke and her outstanding efforts in supporting our clients at Skills and Training with their internship at Kem Krest. Kathryn has been instrumental in helping our clients successfully maintain their employment during the internship. Her willingness to step in and assist the team whenever needed is truly commendable. Kathryn also excels in communication, consistently addressing potential issues with the team and resolving them proactively before they escalate. Her dedication and support have not gone unnoticed by our clients, who greatly value her encouragement and assistance. Thank you, Kathryn, for your hard work and commitment to making this internship experience a success for everyone involved!

# **HADESSA MEYERS**

I would like to nominate Hadessa Meyers for Pay it Forward because of the amazing work she does training new staff at Bristol Day. I did a stay interview where the employee gave Hadessa much praise for her patience, diligence, and honest feedback during the training process. Hadessa really let this employee know she had her back during her early days at B2 and that is exactly what we need at ADEC. I am so grateful for Hadessa being someone who is giving our new employees the great start and welcome they deserve when they join team ADEC! Thank you, Hadessa, for being this great example for all of us!

### **CIERRA COPLEY**

I'd like to personally thank Cierra for being an amazing resource for myself, while working in a foriegn land. I assisted at The Arc this week and needed additional support at times; to navigate through the day. Cierra was truly helpful and even offered assistance to help at other sites, when we learned that there was a need. She has a positive attitude and seems to be always willing to jump in and assist where she is needed. THANK YOU, Cierra! We appreciate your support and kindness shown to the people we support and your coworkers. Keep up the GREAT work!



### **DENINE CALDWELL**

I'd like to personally thank Denine for being an amazing resource to myself and others, while working in a foreign land. I assisted at The Arc this week and needed additional support at times; to navigate through the day. "D" was truly helpful and even offered to assist with some of the tasks for the day. She has a positive attitude and seems to be always willing to jump in and assist where she is needed. She also has a GREAT connection with the people we serve. THANK YOU, "D"! I appreciate your support and kindness shown to the people we support and to your co-workers. Keep up the GREAT work! It looks good on you!

