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# PAY IT FORWARD

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## RECOGNITIONS



MAY 2025

# JENNY HOLCOMB

A – is for awesome, W – is for welcoming, E – is for energetic, S – is for sincere, O – is for Optimistic, M – is for Motivating, E – is for Engaging. This refers to Jenny Holcomb! She brings a positive and friendly energy that works great with the people we serve at ADEC. Recently, while she was in the area, she stopped in and brought us donuts! Jenny has connected us with an upcoming event in Goshen titled, “Beautify Goshen Day” next month. This is another opportunity for us to get involved in community happenings. Thank you, Jenny! Your ray of sunshine is felt and appreciated!

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# MARY JOHNSON

Mary has been with South Bend Day for many years, and her commitment shows in the thoughtful work she does. Mary recently began teaching individuals at South Bend Day all about the human skeletal structure and biomechanics of muscles and ligaments. She identified a knowledge gap and filled it, which is a core part of what Day Program is all about! Mary, I appreciate your willingness to try new things (even after all these years).

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# BRENNA GIVER

Brenna is relatively new to Elkhart Day, but that has not stopped her from jumping in with two feet and rising to the challenge of creating meaningful and goal aligned vocational lessons. She saw a need for an emotional regulation vocational lesson and researched how to teach mediation techniques to individuals with IDD, implemented the lesson, and continued to improve her lesson plan and approach. Brenna’s work is making a positive impact within Elkhart Day and I truly appreciate her efforts and “can do” attitude.

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# CATHERINE HALL

It is a good feeling when you can count on your staff to support each other and plan ahead. Catherine does great in this area, especially when we are short in the department of staff. She will plan ahead on various things that are routine and will offer to prepare a summary for Sandata entries. Staff rely on these entries to complete their tasks. Catherine will plan ahead with our community events for the following day. This includes creating lists of clients interested in the choices offered. She is attentive to our clients and their needs or requests. Thank you, Catherine! You complement our team in many ways! You are appreciated!

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# LAURA ZALAS

I really appreciate that Laura takes time to give me advice when I need it. I know I can reach out to her for help navigating difficult conversations and she's got my back!

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# KRISTEN JACOBSON

Kristen has such a positive and calming demeanor which I appreciate so much! In addition, she is such a great advocate for both the clients and her staff. Keep up the amazing work, Kristen!

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# JENICA LEWALLEN

"Supervisors can get it too!" I would like to send a message to Jenica, who supports her team in various ways and WILL find a way to solve most problems. She has taught me the meaning of 'allowing myself grace' as well as continuously guiding me through programming needs or challenges. Jenica may be small in stature but please do not mistake this for her big impacts brought about through day service operations. She has a force that can take down "GIANTS". I have witnessed this in real time and have been amazed every time. "Thank you, Jenica, for always helping others to see things differently. Thank you for your positivity! It has brought light to gray skies. You understand the assignment and truly believe in our mission. You are appreciated!"

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# STEPHANIE WILMORE

There's no time like the present! I say this because I have been holding a "Thank you" to myself for far too long. Way back during my MANDT instructor days, Stephanie created a binder that was very helpful during trainings. Not just a simple binder...it was well organized and included copies of the materials we reviewed with trainees. So no longer will I hold back! Stephanie! You are appreciated for your kind act and your willingness to support others within our organization. You are amazing with your involvement within your department and most importantly - to the people we serve. THANK YOU!

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# LORNA BROWN

I would like to submit a pay it forward for Lorna Brown for going the extra mile to welcome new staff. We recently got the following comment on our new staff orientation survey, "Lorna is very sweet and provided me with lots of hands-on training which made the experience more clear." Thanks Lorna for making the on-boarding process a pleasant one and creating a positive team culture!

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# ROCIO ORTIZ

I would like to thank Rocio Ortiz for going the extra mile to welcome new staff. We got the following comment on a new staff orientation survey, "Rocio is very helpful and needs lots of recognition. She made me feel very welcomed." Thanks Rocio, for helping to make the on-boarding process a pleasant one and creating a positive team culture.

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# LOIS CHUPP

I would like to thank Lois for going the extra mile to welcome new staff and making the on-boarding a positive experience. We recently got the following comment on a New Staff Orientation Survey, "Lois was very gentle, explained things thoroughly.". Thanks, Lois, for helping to create a positive team culture!

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# OLIVIA YODER

I would like to submit a pay it forward for Olivia Yoder and the great job she does teaching our new staff. We recently got the following comment on a New Staff Orientation Survey, "I really enjoyed Olivia's presentation. I felt like it was very engaging and provided me with knowledge." Thanks, Olivia, for the great work you do in training and on-boarding our new staff and ensuring our clients are safe with med passing.

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# MELA GERZESKI

Mela has been a BIG help lately assisting at other day programs. She has recently assisted at our site and is always ready to jump in and support in various ways. Mela has great artistic skills and can often be found supporting clients with independent crafts. I am just learning that she also has a bit of green thumb. There are plans to collaborate their programs with ours, with spring activities and community outings. Thank you, Mela! You truly make a difference in the lives that we serve.

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