

Dear Colleagues,

This is the time of year when we celebrate the tremendous contributions of direct support professionals (DSPs), those people who work tirelessly each day to help individuals with intellectual/ developmental disabilities and autism live Everyday Lives.

Governor Wolf has signed a proclamation declaring September 10-16 as DSP Recognition Week. The Office of Developmental Programs honors the dedicated men and women who give fully of themselves, who open doors to the community for the people they support and who provide assistance to families. DSPs share the joys of life with the people they support and hang in during the challenging times.

In highlighting the achievements of Zenola and Kelly below, we honor the thousands of DPS across the Commonwealth and thank them for their dedication.

Zenola Butler tells new DSPs: “If it’s only a job you want, this job not for you. Think about your mothers and your grandmothers. We have to bring our passion, our drive, our patience, and our heart to work to ensure that those we support receive the same quality of care we would want for those we love.”

She has the experience to back up her statements. Zenola has been a DSP for nearly 20 years and she has been a DSP and Certified Nursing Assistant at SPIN for four years.

Zenola supports three men in the Mt. Airy section of Philadelphia. She has helped one man progress from living in a nursing home after suffering a stroke to embracing a healthy, meaningful life in his community.



Zenola Butler



Kelly Chimera

Kelly Chimera with EHCA enjoys coming to work every day because there’s always something new happening. She embraces the challenges and joys and takes pride in the smallest and simplest accomplishments.

Kelly has opened the world for Jane, who had very limited communication and opportunities.

Through Kelly’s support and Jane’s hard work, Jane now has communication skills. She volunteers in the community. She is has become a serious cook and baker. Each week she prepares a special dish to share with her friends.

“My biggest goal is to help whomever to live the best life they can, to live outside of the box that people try to put them in,” said Kelly, who has been a DSP with EHCA for 20 years.

Please take the time to show your appreciation to DSPs, this week especially!

Nancy

