

Dungarvin

2014 ANCOR Direct Support Professional of the Year Nomination



Brenda Linden – Dungarvin Oregon

nomination submitted by Kelly Evans, Program Director

Brenda is the lead staff in a home that serves adults with significant medical challenges. Most of these persons receive their nourishment via G tube. All require full physical support in activities of daily living. Brenda has proven to go above and beyond the norm, in both her program and with other programs within Dungarvin. She is very positive, hard working and her priority is providing choice to the individuals she supports. Her knowledge of policy and state standers is outstanding. She is able to set clear goals for her team in order to reach clients heights potential. Providing feedback and support to our family members as needed and supporting them to allow all consumers to have unique and individual time with family members.

Brenda loves to participate in activities both at home and in the community with the individuals she supports. She particularly enjoys swimming with the persons at her program. Brenda leads by example and provides guidance to her staff on any level. She makes sure that music is playing on a regular basis for an individual who has a preference for strong rhythms and rapid beats. Brenda also likes to pamper some of the women in the home by providing them with different accessories. One individual, S.T, becomes anxious in crowded environments. Brenda is aware of this issue for S.T. and ensures that she provides him opportunities for time on his own, for privacy and relaxation. Two of the individuals served, M.S and E.F.S both love music, Brenda makes sure in the morning music is playing for them both of them in their rooms when they are waking up and in the common areas of the program. Brenda knows for those individual it starts their day on a positive note. T.F is another one of the persons served in this program, she has long beautiful hair; Brenda takes great pleasure in making sure that her hair is well accessorized and perfectly groomed before she leaves for her work program or any other special event.

Brenda is an awesome advocate for all the individuals in her program. She is very involved in the Individual support plans and person centered process. Typically she is advocating for someone who

does not communicate with words, serving as a spokesperson to convey needs, preferences and choices. For some who have multiple medical challenges and/or physical limitations, Brenda has advocated for best care and services. She has pushed for additional services, medical tests and treatments for the individuals. She comprehends her advocacy role, and applies her skills in this area to benefit the persons she supports.

Brenda attends school full time as well as works 40 hours weekly at the group home. She is a great example of a dedicated staff, and her sense of commitment to the welfare of the persons she supports is remarkable. She has assisted and supported individuals during emergency room visits, staying with them for hours at a time. She willingly works odd shifts in order to be present during medical crises or to cover staff shortages to support individual needs.

Brenda was able to obtain different services that come to work with the individuals at the group home. She was able to bring in music therapy and massage therapy. [The home decor represents the personal tastes and preferences of the persons residing there. Each room in the home is decorated differently and reflects each person's interest, including personal photos. Brenda also demonstrates her creativity in her approach with one individual who often declines needed medical treatments. Through her close relationship with this person she is able to find a way to successfully administer all treatments to him. Overall, Brenda never hesitates to face challenges and consistently finds a way to provide quality support for all the Individuals she supports. In addition, Brenda likes to setup events at the program that includes the person's serviced family, such as pot luck dinners during the holidays. Brenda knows how important it is to the individuals to have family and friends remembered on the holidays and other special times of the year.

Despite holding the non-supervisory role of House Coordinator at her home, Brenda has assumed a leadership role in providing training to other DSPs within the organization. Her extensive knowledge of Oregon administrative rule allows her to participate in quality assurance assessments. Brenda's staff is well trained and she has high expectations of performance and supports provided to individuals.