

Dungarvin

2014 ANCOR Direct Support Professional of the Year Nomination



Jeannie Barnette - Dungarvin Indiana

nomination submitted by Susan Ranaghan Gichohi, Area Director

Jeannie has worked as a Direct Support Professional for Dungarvin Indiana for over twenty years. Through various departments, homes and job titles, the one constant has been Jeannie's dedication to the individuals she supports. At any time when a new system, approach, policy or procedure is proposed, Jeannie will always step back and put herself in the shoes of the individuals at her home, considering how this change will impact the lives of those individuals. She consistently speaks up and asks questions when she is concerned, and this is a marker of a true advocate.

During a particularly difficult period at one of our group homes, one of the individuals residing there was nearing the end of his life. Jeannie was the rallying force that allowed Dungarvin to serve this man in dignity to the very end in his own home, surrounded by the men who had been his companions from the days when he moved out of the state run institution. Jeannie worked with her staff, provided extra training, and worked long hours ensuring that we could provide the supports he needed.

One individual that Jeannie supports came to us from a nursing facility. When living with a family member, he had survived a house fire. He had burns over 90% of his body. He had endured multiple surgeries and skin grafts over years of healing. He has been told that his body cannot tolerate any more grafts or surgeries at this time, so keeping his skin intact is priority for him to be able to continue to live in the community. He still has areas that frequently open up on his ankles and heels. Jeannie is diligent in supporting this gentleman and encouraging him to follow his doctor's care plan. Many doctors might have recommended he return to a nursing facility, but the perseverance of Jeannie is what allows him to live a full life in his community, making friends and participating in the social events that he loves.

Jeannie has never hesitated to sacrifice her personal family time if an emergency arose at her site. She will often put in a full day just to be asked to stay longer because of a need at the home. She has

been called in at all hours of the day and night to assist with emergencies and will always assist when asked.

As the Lead Counselor of the home, Jeannie is very diligent in making sure that all activities that people want to participate in are being scheduled and offered. She is connected with many local churches and other organizations and is able to identify many fun activities for everyone. She has set up programs for some of the people to learn to use the computer at the library, and has assisted others in obtaining materials and assistance for their visual challenges.

Jeannie leads by example. She creates a culture of respect and support at her site by being a role model, speaking with respect to each individual, and consulting the individuals when planning activities, outings, or menu plans. Jeannie is instrumental in her leadership during times when the home is going through their annual licensure surveys.