

# Dungarvin

2014 ANCOR Direct Support Professional of the Year Nomination



**Jemimah Mwangi– Dungarvin New Jersey**  
*nomination submitted by Almeda Athill, Area Director*

I had the honor of working closely with Jemimah when she volunteered to take on the job duties of the Community Support Coordinator position. The staff person in that position had to go on an unexpected leave of absence, creating an opportunity for Jemimah to ascend to this role. She was a new employee at the program, but that did not stop her; she is always the first to jump in. She took responsibility for these duties without being asked and worked tirelessly to ensure that the program continued to run smoothly. During that time she never ceased to impress me and I developed enormous respect for her dedication to the job, the individuals she supported and to Dungarvin's mission of "respecting and responding to the choices of people with developmental disabilities." She has a passion for the people with whom she works and tirelessly advocates for them. Jemimah ensured staff followed treatment orders by offering constructive feedback and providing on the job training to her co-workers on specialized diets, weight checks, and medication administration. Jemimah is a great team player who is always willing to lend a hand with any project and at any Dungarvin site when needed. She projects a warm, positive, cheerful attitude, no matter how difficult the task. If you ask any Dungarvin supervisor about Jemimah you are likely to hear "I wish I could clone her" That says it all. We are proud and very grateful to have her as part of our Dungarvin New Jersey team.

The individuals love her. When Jemimah walks into the room, the individuals light up. She gives each of them special and personal attention, such as head massages and favorite magazines.

Jemimah reported that an individual's lunch was not being adequately refrigerated at his day program. She was concerned that he would get sick from eating inadequately cooled foods. This identified issue led to the day program changing its procedure for handling lunches, thus creating a healthier environment and ensuring the well-being of all attendees at the day program. She also advocated for a medication change when she felt the medication was having negative side effects and affecting the quality of life of the individual. The medication was eventually discontinued and this person who had lost his ability to

ambulate independently is now walking without assistance and is back to his “rambunctious” self.

Jemimah is a student who is working 2 jobs; despite this, she comes in on her days off to help out. Jemimah offered to work on her day off, freely volunteering to cover a shift to take individuals to their doctor appointments because she wanted to ensure that the physicians were receiving the information they required for proper treatment.

Prior to Jemimah working at the at the Berwick group home, the staff at this site would often complain that it was too difficult to take individuals to activities in the community. Jemimah not only informed them that it could be done, but showed them. The guys now regularly go to the library, take walks in the community and go to the mall, a favorite hang out.

Jemimah became proficient in Therap, an electronic system of documentation used by Dungarvin New Jersey, primarily through self-training. She then assisted in providing Therap training to staff, some of whom had been working for Dungarvin much longer than she has.