

Dungarvin

2014 ANCOR Direct Support Professional of the Year Nomination

--- OHIO STATE WINNER! ---



Mohamed Conde - Dungarvin Ohio

nomination submitted by Adrienne Kennedy, Program Director

When Mohamed first started working with N.J., he demonstrated multiple behavioral difficulties including frequent elopement, physical aggression, and a lack of social skills. Because of the trauma that N.J. experienced early in life, he did not trust people. Mohamed readily took on the challenge and developed the necessary skills to help N.J. improve in these areas. He began by regularly taking N.J. to social events with peers and other locales in the community. Mohamed would continuously assist N.J. by creating an awareness of social settings, social interactions, and corresponding appropriate modes of behavior and communication. With Mohamed's guidance and encouragement N.J. began to engage in social relationships with community members and using appropriate boundaries. Now N.J. participates with Special Olympics, various recreational activities, and even volunteers at a local bookstore.

N.J. has shared with other caregivers and service team members that he loves Mohamed and considers him to be his best friend. Mohamed's supervisor constantly receives positive feedback about the quality of care Mohamed provides N.J. N.J.'s teachers have praised Mohamed, as well as his foster mom who says that she believes that Mohamed's care and companionship have made a world of difference in N.J.'s life. This positive rapport with N.J. and his caregivers is a result of the consistency and solid judgment that Mohamed employs during his work. As a consequence, Mohamed has inspired a trusting, positive, and warm relationship not only with the N.J. but also his caregivers.

Because of some of the behavioral issues that N.J. experienced in the past, he was expelled from school indefinitely. For over a year and a half N.J. was homeschooled while the school district attempted to determine what to do with him. Once a plan was developed to start N.J. back to school, Mohamed was instrumental in helping to assist with transportation to and from school for him.

Mohamed is always willing to make adjustments to his personal schedule to accommodate N.J. He goes out of his way to make sure that N.J. keeps in contact with his biological family by taking him to visits several times per month.

In the beginning, N.J. had a tough time in the community. He would elope at any opportunity and got into constant fights with peers and adults. N.J.'s opportunities for participation in community activities were severely hampered due to these challenging behaviors. Mohamed's approach was to spend every shift with N.J. out in the community. Under Mohamed's watchful eye, N.J. learned the skills to engage with people appropriately in social settings. Now N.J. is a social butterfly! When he is in a new social setting, N.J. wants to meet every new person he sees. He likes having friends now and N.J. is adored by peers and adults. Everyone likes being around him.

Mohamed consistently receives high marks on his annual performance evaluations. He is praised not only internally for the quality of care he provides, but by others outside of Dungarvin. Mohamed's supervisor has received positive feedback from a various people in the community about the care Mohamed provides for N.J.