

Dungarvin

2014 ANCOR Direct Support Professional of the Year Nomination



Kristy Chatham – Dungarvin Oklahoma

nomination submitted by Angela Wheeler, Program Director

Kristy Chatham has been with Dungarvin Oklahoma since May 2012. She came to us with vast experience and was able to fulfill her duties as a Habilitation Training Specialist immediately. It was not long before Kristy was promoted to Residential Coordinator (RC). Her first duty as RC was to organize a new home for three gentlemen. As the RC, she had to adapt to handle the responsibilities of three individuals who were strangers to her and each other. She was able to create rapport quickly with the men, their families, their teams and new staff. Despite a number of medical and behavioral issues, the home was soon running smoothly and the three men were living peacefully together.

Kristy was able to earn respect easily with the three gentlemen and their families. She has gained their trust and they know that whatever may arise, Kristy has the knowledge and skills to handle it. When GT moved into the home, Kristy quickly recognized that his feet were severely cracked. Being diabetic, she knew to have this checked immediately by a physician. Recently GT had a personal crisis when his C-PAP machine broke. Unable to sleep, GT was very concerned. Kristy worked with the professionals well after her scheduled work hours until she was able to get him a new machine. GT told the Program Director that Kristy went over the call of duty to help him. GT tells staff often that he would be lost without Kristy. Kristy is available to the gentlemen at all hours of the day. GT freely talks about all the good things that Kristy does for him.

During the May tornadoes in central Oklahoma, these gentlemen were displaced. Due to limited funds they were not able to afford a hotel. Kristy worked with the University of Oklahoma and was able to secure a four bedroom apartment on campus that was at no cost to the men. Additionally, she assisted them in obtaining free meals from the cafeteria as well as clothing while they were displaced. The gentlemen stayed at there for several weeks until they were able to return home.

Kristy is available around the clock for all her staff, families, guardians, professionals and the individuals

for whom she provides services. She works countless hours when needed and often neglects her own family to ensure the needs in the home are met.

Kristy explored countless vocational possibilities and finally assisted one of the gentlemen with finding employment. Kristy introduced GT and CB to Foundations (a social dance) and set them both up with bowling. GT and CB are now more social and have fewer behaviors. As a result, new friendships have been developed. Kristy encourages new friendships by setting up bowling birthday parties and facilitated a Thanksgiving party where the gentlemen can invite friends and family.

Kristy maintains a comfortable and well-organized home. She has proven to be an effective leader of the staff with whom she works. Other staff state that "Kristy is a good RC. She runs a smooth home and lets her expectations be known." She is always accessible to families, staff, supervisors and other professionals. She is often the RC that is called to train new RCs and is proficient in all the software provided to ensure quality services.