

Dungarvin

2014 ANCOR Direct Support Professional of the Year Nomination

--- OKLAHOMA STATE WINNER! ---



Michelle Siegfried – Dungarvin Oklahoma

nomination submitted by Angela Wheeler, Program Director

Michelle worked for Dungarvin for a year before she transferred to an in-home assignment. CP was a recluse who would refuse to leave her home. CP could become angry and hit staff and her family. Michelle encouraged her to expand her horizons. CP soon was going to locales far from home such as the Aquarium in Jenks and Medicine Park. CP also began attending the rally at the Capital every year. Michelle would introduce CP to her representatives and advocate for better care. CP hardly has an opportunity to be home when Michelle was there.

As a result of Michelle's efforts with CP, her father and others started observing great personal growth in her. CP demonstrated a willingness to stay places for longer periods of time. She also started playing games with Michelle that expanded her skills. CP even expanded her expressive language. She would ask her dad for Michelle every day, even when Michelle did not work. On one occasion CP's father had a heart attack. Michelle immediately came over and stayed with CP until her aunts could arrive. Another time CP's mom passed away, Michelle just began working in the home. She kept CP occupied while the family gathered. After that Michelle made sure that dinner was cooked for the whole family before finishing her shift. CP was not the only person positively impacted by Michelle.

Michelle has cross trained in several homes in the company. She has brought her knowledge and her gift to each individual she has supported. Recently Michelle assisted DH to go on vacation. DH went to Six Flags over Texas. Michelle went with him and with another staff's assistance was able to not only take DH but to aid him on each and every ride. DH smiles every time Michelle's name is said in his presence.

Michelle had promised MH that she would take him to a women's basketball game on Sunday. The night before the game she ended up working a double shift, but because she had already promised she went ahead and took MH to the game. Commitment and follow-through are important values to Michelle.

In the past, Michelle worked with CB. Other staff in the home found it challenging to get CB to go out in the community. Michelle reviewed CB's support plan and saw that the team identified a goal for CB to increase his integration into the community. Michelle got creative and convinced CB to go walking at the mall with her. Once out in the community, she was able to convince him to go several more places before returning home. CB will now contact the Program Director to request Michelle to come work with him. Michelle recently became the Residential Coordinator in a home with three gentlemen who have multiple needs. HM was recently discovered to be blind in both eyes and deaf. Michelle noted that HM walked around grinding his teeth all day. She also noted that staff rarely interacted with him. She began showing staff how to engage with him. She also contacted an Occupational Therapist to obtain assistance with tactile equipment that staff can use to expand his world and stimulate his remaining senses. Michelle began organizing outings with all three gentlemen. She immediately jumped into the Coordinator role and began exploring Therap, an electronic documentation system, on her own. Michelle advocates for all the individuals on a daily basis. She identifies problems and creates solutions. She does not follow the status quo. Instead, she questions the reasons and expands the boundaries, appropriately so.

Michelle is a positive role model for other staff. Her recent promotion to Residential Coordinator has proven to be an asset to Dungarvin. She immediately stepped in and recognized changes that needed to be made. She is working with 3 very vulnerable gentlemen and she was able to quickly identify needs for them. In a short period of time, she aligned team members, who approved necessary changes in services and supports.