

- DSP Spotlight -

June 2022

Melissa Herdman



What do you like to do in your free time? I enjoy making jewelry, playing video games, and gardening.

How long have you worked as a Direct Support Professional? I have worked as a Direct Support Professional for 3 years.

How did you start in the field? I began working at Windfall Industries in April of 2019, not having any previous experience as a DSP. I really enjoyed working with the people we served and realized that this is something I would love to do long-term.

Has there ever been anyone that has stood out to you as a mentor in this field? One of my managers, Erin, has stood out to me as a mentor. She is always very helpful when I have questions and comes up with great new ideas that benefit the people we serve even more. She encourages a positive work environment and is someone that I know I can go to when I need assistance coming up with a solution to a problem.

What is your favorite thing to do with the people you serve? My favorite thing to do with the people I serve is going out into the community on fun outings such as getting doughnuts, going bowling, or maintaining our garden. I also love getting to know all of the individuals I work with and coming up with creative craft ideas with them.

What is your favorite part of being a Direct Support Professional? My favorite part of being a DSP is going to work and seeing the big and small achievements the people we serve make every day. I enjoy helping them accomplish their goals and guiding them to become more independent.

What makes Melissa such a great DSP?: Melissa is amazing! She works incredibly hard to make her ADS program so much fun for her clients. She comes up with interesting, inclusive activities for everyone, and finds all sorts of fun ways to get her group out into the community. She is extremely creative. Melissa is an outside the box thinker and is always trying to come up with new ideas for jigs and other adaptive measures to help individuals who struggle with completing a task be successful with completing the task. She never thinks that someone is not able to do something, and instead questions how it can be done. Melissa is such a good soul and I am very thankful to be lucky enough to work with her.

