

# - DSP Spotlight -

April 2024

## Nicole Winkler



**What do you like to do in your free time?** I like to spend time with my family, from hiking outdoors with my dogs and family to going to church on Sundays. I also love reading a good book on a rainy day or crocheting in my favorite chair.

**How long have you worked as a Direct Support Professional?** I have worked as a Direct Support Specialist since 2017. I started at a company located Medina, then in 2021 I went to Midwest in Wayne County. In August of 2023, I transferred to a day program in Medina.

**How did you start in the field?** I started with a company in Medina and worked in houses and day programs.

**Has there ever been anyone that has stood out to you as a mentor in this field?** Yes, my former boss in Wayne County. The way she worked with the individuals and how they just lit up when she came into the room made me want to be that person and have that respect in the field.

**What is your favorite thing to do with the people you serve?** I love to help them achieve independence. I also love going out in the community with them.

**What is your favorite part of being a Direct Support Professional?** I enjoy when the individuals I work with get excited and have fun with me. Seeing them experience things is an amazing feeling.

**What makes Nicole a great DSP?:** Nicole was always open and eager to help out in Medina when we were short staffed. Nicole came from another county as a DSP and started filling in at first, then decided to stay at Medina permanently and was promoted to a DSP II. Since then, Nicole has been determined and shown leadership skills and initiative. We are so blessed to have Nicole on our team. She is easy to get along with and shows love and compassion for the individuals we serve.

**Thank you for your outstanding contributions to helping people with developmental disabilities and their families in Medina County. Thank you for sharing your dedication and commitment to making a difference in the lives of others every single day.**



*Know a direct support professional (DSP) who has made a positive impact on your life, your agency, the individuals you serve or the community? Nominate them for a "DSP Spotlight" at [www.mcbdd.org](http://www.mcbdd.org).*