

# - DSP Spotlight -

May 2024

## Leeann Garrison



**What do you like to do in your free time?** I like to spend time with my daughter and go camping.

**How long have you worked as a Direct Support Professional?** I've been a DSP for 18 years and 5 months as of April.

**How did you start in the field?** I was inspired by my cousin, Sam. He's developmentally disabled and I have enjoyed spending every summer, long weekends and holidays with him, and watching him grow over the years.

**Has there ever been anyone that has stood out to you as a mentor in this field?** Char Snyder and Debby Graves, from The Society. They are wonderful women and I look up to both of them.

**What is your favorite thing to do with the people you serve?** I enjoy trying new things with them while on outings.

**What is your favorite part of being a Direct Support Professional?** I like watching the individuals that I work with grow.

**What makes Leeann a great DSP?:** Miss Leeann always puts a smile on my son Ryan's face. She jokes and interacts with him. He is visually impaired and is often looked over, however, Leeann takes the time and continues to learn about Ryan's likes and dislikes. For example, on an ice cream shop outing, Leanne knew that Ryan doesn't like ice cream, so she got him a cookie instead.

Leeann takes initiative and tries new things. She is very observant and I know without a doubt that my son is in the BEST care when he works with Leeann. Ryan often makes references to Miss Leeann when he is home. This is significant because Ryan is also very limited in his expressive communication. Leeann looks out for his best interests. She is thoughtful and caring. Her communication skills are always on point and professional, but show care and compassion. She is the perfect DSP and has mastered the intricate balance of accountability, integrity, and care.

**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.**

