

- DSP Spotlight -

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Donna Fitzpatrick



What do you like to do in your free time? In my free time, I enjoy being surrounded by the people I love most. Whether I'm catching up with family and friends, trying out new recipes in the kitchen, or happily spoiling my grandsons and spending quality time with my beautiful parents, those moments are what bring me the most joy.

How long have you worked as a Direct Support Professional? I have been a DSP for 37 years.

How did you start in the field? I started in this field as a respite provider before having my second child.

Has there ever been anyone that has stood out to you as a mentor in this field? It was my first client as a respite caretaker that hooked me in. I knew it was my calling.

What is your favorite thing to do with the people you serve? I do not have a favorite thing to do with my folks. I love all I do when with them. I learn so much from them; they are unconditional, non-judgmental, and ever so loving. They have "different abilities". They bring so much joy to my days.

What is your favorite part of being a Direct Support Professional? What I enjoy most about being an IP is the ability to truly center everything around my clients' needs, goals, and comfort. Having the freedom to spend meaningful time with each person allows me to build genuine relationships, offering care that feels personal rather than rushed or standardized. I get to listen intently, adapt my approach to what works best for them, and create an experience where they feel seen, supported, and valued. That connection is what makes this line of work fulfilling – knowing that every decision I make directly enhances the quality of care that my folks receive and strengthens that trust we build with one another.

What makes Donna a great DSP?: Donna is an extremely dedicated Independent Provider. She is compassionate, humble, and very respected in this field. She focuses her energy on the individuals she serves as they are her top priority. Going above and beyond is "normal" for Donna. She works to ensure all her individuals feel engaged and loved. She loves the work she does, and it shows! She loves taking care of others and her passion for the work she does is evident in her commitment.

