

- DSP Spotlight -

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Joe Ramunni



What do you like to do in your free time? We live on our small farm so there are always projects needing my attention. My son, Micah, and I like working together to maintain functionality or build something new. I enjoy pruning our fruit trees, grapevines and other varieties of trees and bushes on our property, then sitting on our porch with a cup of coffee to enjoy the view and the sounds. I also enjoy spending some downtime catching up with the people I follow on Facebook. I find it a good way to learn about people with different perspectives and life challenges.

How long have you worked as a Direct Support Professional? I have been a DSP for 14 months.

How did you start in the field? Our 21-year-old son, Micah, has significant special needs. Since I take care of most of his needs, stepping into the role of a Direct Support Professional made a lot of sense.

Has there ever been anyone that has stood out to you as a mentor in this field? For 25 years, my wife, Renee, worked full-time as a special needs foster parent, becoming very proficient at advocating and caring for medically fragile children. Through those years of watching her advocate for the needs of children, I learned that parents, guardians, and independent providers must advocate for the needs of the people they support.

What is your favorite thing to do with the people you serve? We enjoy doing everyday activities on a beautiful sunny day, such as enjoying the sights and sounds of nature, listening to our favorite music while driving for supplies, or going to a sporting event. We love going to Micah's and his sister Laura's Miracle League baseball game or Special Olympics Basketball Skills practice and cheering them on. On cooler days, we like building campfires using the large pile of sticks Micah has collected from past windy days.

What is your favorite part of being a Direct Support Professional? My favorite part of being a Direct Support Professional is providing Micah the care he needs in a way that makes him feel worthy and valued, but never like a burden. He is a very special human being, and he deserves to see himself that way, regardless of what he can or cannot do for himself.

What makes Joe a great DSP?: Joe is an amazing father, provider, and person. Him and his family are welcoming to others. Joe advocates for his son to ensure his health and safety. Him and his wife are showing their children ways to touch others' lives and make them feel appreciated and cared for. Joe makes it easy for others to be a part of the support team. Anyone that meets Joe is able to see he is a genuine, kind, and caring person.

