

- DSP Spotlight -

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Jessica Burkey



What do you like to do in your free time? I like to read, color, cook and swim, all while listening to music or an audio book.

How long have you worked as a Direct Support Professional? I have worked as a Direct Support Professional since 2013.

How did you start in the field? I started volunteering at the Achievement Center for holiday parties, picnics and Special Olympic events with my mom at the age of 16. As I volunteered, I found a passion for working with individuals with developmental disabilities.

Has there ever been anyone that has stood out to you as a mentor in this field? There are two people that have stood out to me and helped me become the DSP that I am today: my dad, who worked in this field for many years, and my mom. My mom worked in the kitchen at the Achievement Center for 31 years before retiring. She has been my rock; she supports and encourages me when things get a little overwhelming.

What is your favorite thing to do with the people you serve? One of my favorite things to do is to have dance parties and be silly while completing tasks that must get done.

What is your favorite part of being a Direct Support Professional?

My favorite part of being a DSP is bringing joy to the individuals' lives and being able to make them smile even if they are having a rough day.

What makes Jessica a great DSP?: Jessica has a heart of gold and is a true gift when it comes to serving individuals with developmental differences. She is kind, calm and solution oriented. Jessica gives all of her time and talents, even when she doesn't have to, going so far as to preparing menus, meals and shopping lists for consumers that she doesn't normally work with. Nurturing Hands and Hearts is blessed to work with such an exceptional person.

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.

