



# MISSION MOMENTS

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### *DSP RECOGNITION WEEK SPECIAL EDITION*

September 10-16 is National Direct Support Professionals Recognition Week—a week that illuminates the vital role that DSPs play in the lives of individuals with disabilities and celebrates their achievements.

This month, we bring you a special Mission Moment to recognize one of our longest-serving DSPs and recipient of DSPIN's 2017 Outstanding DSP Award, Deborah Morelock! This award is presented to exceptional DSPs employed in Indiana, who demonstrate a commitment to the DSPIN mission of supporting empowered lives for DSPs and those they serve through education, self-awareness, and collaborative action. This year, there were 45 nominees and 5 recipients. Enjoy reading Deborah's award nomination:



Deborah at the DSPIN Awards Luncheon (second from left) with Angie Tyler (far left), Adele Allen (second from right), and Brandi Foreman (far right).

I would like to nominate Deborah Morelock for the DSPIN Outstanding DSP Award. Deborah has been with Tangram since 1998. During her nearly 20 year tenure at Tangram she has worked with many individuals and has never wavered in her commitment to empowering those we serve to lead independent, productive, and happy lives.

Though Tangram has nearly 200 employees, almost everyone recognizes Deborah's name—from administrative staff to those who work in the field—which is a testament to her involvement in the organization. Deborah's drive to go above and beyond in her role as DSP is unmatched. Several of her supervisors over the years have remarked on her incredible ability to identify opportunities when faced with a barrier. One manager stated that Deborah never approaches her with a problem without also presenting possible solutions.

Deborah is the type of person who would move mountains for those she serves. Once, Deborah was a DSP at a home that was going from a one-person to a two-person home. During this transition she went above and beyond to ensure that A) the gentleman who originally lived in the home felt comfortable sharing his home and B) the gentleman moving in felt safe and at-home. Deborah stepped up to make sure that the clients could interact with each other regularly to be as comfortable as possible with one another and even become friends. Furthermore, she stayed over her shift, as well as came in early, to make sure both clients could go out and engage in their desired activities, and provided extra services to make the transition as smooth as possible.



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On one specific occasion, there were difficulties with receiving all of the necessary prescriptions for the new client. Deborah went to the doctor's office, to the pharmacy, back to the doctor's office, etc.—putting everything in place to ensure this client could get his medications. Deborah is always doing extra to help the clients, program manager, and other DSPs when help is needed.

She is consistently recognized by her coworkers and supervisors for her efforts and recently joined a committee to help plan staff appreciation events and activities throughout the year. When her current manager took time off, Deborah stepped up to the plate and assumed manager duties, without having to be asked—which was a gift that allowed the manager to enjoy a worry-free wedding and honeymoon.

Deborah treats her coworkers with the same care and respect that she shows her clients. There aren't enough words to capture Deborah's tireless dedication to her role as a DSP. She makes it a priority to understand details that are often overlooked by others and always takes a thoughtful approach to providing services, recognizing that the people she serves are individuals with unique needs, desires, and dreams.



Deborah with Joe and Jacob, two of the individuals she works with.

Deborah pictured with some of Tangram's Self-Advocates



To Deborah, being a DSP isn't just a job. It is a precious responsibility and one that she doesn't take lightly. For these reasons and many, many more, Deborah deserves to be recognized as an Outstanding DSP.

***Tangram congratulates Deborah on her well-deserved award and applauds her for the remarkable impact she has had on the lives of individuals with disabilities. Thank you for your service, Deborah, and keep up the wonderful work!***