



MISSION MOMENTS

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SPECIAL NATIONAL DSP WEEK EDITION!

September 11-17 is National Direct Support Professionals Week—a week that celebrates the dedication of DSPs and the positive impact they have on the lives of individuals with disabilities.

For this month's Mission Moment, we wanted to share Tangram DSP Elizabeth Drinkut's award nomination for DSPIN's 2016 Outstanding DSP Award—an award which Elizabeth WON! This award is presented to exceptional DSPs employed in Indiana who demonstrate a commitment to the DSPIN mission to support empowered lives for DSPs and those they serve through education, self-awareness and collaborative action. This year, there were 32 nominees and five recipients. Congratulations, Elizabeth!



Elizabeth Drinkut (middle) with Mark Sisk, program manager (left), and Angie Tyler, Tangram President and CEO (right)

I would like to nominate Elizabeth (Beth) Drinkut for the Outstanding Direct Support Professional Award. Beth came to Tangram in 2005, and has worked in a group home setting for the past six years. While she has many different exceptional skills, the two that come to mind most readily are her commitment to supporting the individuals with whom she works to develop and maintain relationships and her focus on empowering those we serve to direct their own lives.

To ensure that each client has opportunities to engage with their community, Beth maintains a monthly community calendar, indicating activities available for clients to participate in.

She understands how important it is to protect the dignity of each individual with whom she works, and to this end, continuously teaches and reinforces everyday living skills so that her clients can build confidence and achieve independence in their everyday lives.

Her personal mission is to ensure that each client's health and wellness is being supported by all staff. Beth gives all her clients emotional support and helps to promote growth in their abilities. Furthermore, she makes sure to communicate with everyone involved in the care of all clients, including doctors, nurses, family members, and other staff members.

While, on paper, her duties include personal hygiene, housekeeping, transportation, medication administration, shopping, and cooking, Beth always goes above and beyond basic needs by infusing her work with purpose and a genuine care for those she serves.



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(Continued)

Two years ago, Indianapolis experienced a very harsh winter. It snowed for several days and no one could get out to work. Beth, already on duty, volunteered to stay and work in the home. She worked 36 hours without relief, never complained, and made sure that the individuals in the home were not only well taken care of, but that they had plenty of activities to keep them busy while they were snowed in.

Beth is always focused on the wellbeing of clients and never lets her personal life interfere with her work. She attends every monthly staff meeting equipped with valuable feedback and innovative ideas about how to improve the lives of our clients. She also assists the program manager in all aspects of running the group home, and especially excels in maintaining open lines of communication between all key players.

Notably, Beth has built a rapport with family members of each client. She always communicates to the families what is going on in their loved ones' lives, which has greatly contributed to building trusting relationships between Tangram and family members.

Finally, Beth is always supportive of her fellow DSPs. When other team members want to take vacation or just need some time off, Beth steps in to cover shifts as needed. This creates a wonderful culture of teamwork, which also has a positive effect on the quality of services provided.

Beth lives her passion everyday by providing the highest quality of services to her clients and supporting the wellbeing of her fellow staff members. She has proven herself to be an essential part of the team and continually demonstrates her commitment to quality of life for individuals with disabilities through her excellent work ethic. I can think of no individual more deserving of the Outstanding Direct Support Professional Award than Elizabeth Drinkut!

Tangram congratulates Elizabeth on her well-deserved award and thanks all of our DSPs for their vital role in creating extraordinary lives for individuals with disabilities!



Elizabeth assists Tangram client, Chris, with an art activity