



DSP RECOGNITION WEEK!

For those of us that live on Long Island, the drive ‘out east’ is usually for weekend getaways, pumpkin picking, farm stands or wineries. For the residents of the Southold IRA, ‘out east’ is their everyday life. Their quiet and secluded IRA is set in a beautiful neighborhood with their side yard being rows of grapes being grown for one of the many eastern LI vineyards. Messina W., House Manager, ensures that her seven residents are safe, happy and healthy on a daily basis. To do this successfully, she relies on her few, but extremely loyal staff - Elise, Tannicia (TJ) and Sharen. The ‘dream team’ of staff at Southold face challenges with staffing because of their location, but that doesn’t stop them from being creative and productive! During the pandemic, Messina and her staff have been able to keep the house COVID-free, and with the help of day program staff, offer meaningful activities during the day. Messina has become creative with her ability to expose her residents to new activities and adventures- as one of her residents, Matt, was able to purchase a new bicycle and has been enjoying riding it safely around the neighborhood! Elise assists the residents with their medical appointments and special outings daily in the mornings, TJ keeps everyone active and well-fed during the evening shift and Sharen keeps everyone’s weekends busy and fun by doing outdoor activities and many, MANY arts and craft projects! The IRA is decorated beautifully with artwork created by the individuals that live there. Thanks to the extraordinary efforts and caring hearts of Messina, Elise, TJ and Sharen, the Southold IRA is a family. There is no better time than DSP week to recognize these efforts and say “thank you!”

HEROES WORK HERE!