



*Thank you to all of our staff and friends who contributed to this week's story*

When visitors and families enter AHRC Suffolk's Bohemia building, they are always greeted with a friendly smile and a warm hello from our amazing receptionist, Caren. Caren has worked at AHRC Suffolk for 17 years and is always happy to see every person who comes through our door. Whether it's picking up someone from our Day Hab program (before the current health crisis), dropping off supplies or applying for a job opening, Caren always makes everyone feel at ease and is more than happy to answer any questions they may have.

When parents and families did come in for pick-ups, many sat and chatted with Caren as part of their everyday routine. Caren has developed wonderful relationships with our individuals, their families and, of course, her fellow staff.

Since the Coronavirus pandemic, Caren has been at our Bohemia front desk fielding calls of concern, greeting guests and making sure everyone is sanitizing hands, wearing masks and following all protocol to keep people safe. Even more amazingly, Caren makes a point of speaking to some individuals every week on the phone to check in and see how they're doing. She enjoys hearing from them and they love speaking with her and feeling connected even when they can't be with us in person.

One of our individuals even missed her so much, she made a special trip to our Bohemia facility so she could have the chance to visit Caren from a safe distance. Her mother only has amazing things to say about Caren. *"One of the first things my daughter asked after the agency closed due to COVID-19 was "When will I see Caren again?" Caren is a person whose friendly, kind and empathetic nature is felt by all those who are part of the AHRC family. My daughter has spoken with Caren regularly since the crisis began. She has reassured my daughter that everything will be fine soon. Thanks to Caren, my daughter still feels connected to her program and the person she admires most."* – Patricia R.

Caren is one of a kind and is such a caring and dedicated member of our AHRC family. We are thankful every day to have her with us.