



*Some of our fantastic Supported Work DSPs*

*Seiff Educare's incredible DSPs*



# DSP RECOGNITION WEEK!

## Supported Employment

While many of us remained at home to safeguard ourselves and our loved ones during the onset of the pandemic, the DSPs that work in AHRC Suffolk's Supported Employment reported to work each day to support and protect those individuals who had to report to their jobs. The Supported Employment job coaching staff including Tara D., Karolyn D., Rebecca H., Noreen H., Maureen L., Linda O., Lori S., Ginger S., Joe W. and John W. provided direct service supports for those individuals that fell into the *essential employee* category such as those working at grocery stores, pharmacies and even some manufacturing companies. They were expected to report to work immediately and our Supported Employment DSPs were there to help them do so. For many of the individuals, this was an nervewracking time, but they were willing to answer the call to duty as long as they had their coach to help and support them through the many changes that were now part of their life. For some the transportation they depended on was no longer available, so families and job coaches worked together to ensure safe travel to and from work. Those whose families could not commit to providing transportation received assistance to apply for alternative transportation which secured a safe manner in which they could send their loved ones out to work each day. Each one of the job coaches reported to work every day and took the necessary steps to support and safeguard every individual assigned to them without question, working in the very environments that many were avoiding at that time. They set aside their own worries and concerns to ensure that our individuals had the necessary PPE to protect themselves while giving them the level of love and support they needed throughout the crisis. Their willingness to put fear and concern aside and put our individuals first and foremost makes them an invaluable part of the AHRC Suffolk family.

## Seiff Educare Center

The DSPs at the Educare Center are the epitome of everything a hero is - determined, selfless, patient, brave, caring, honest and protective. The classroom teachers go above and beyond every day educating, engaging and caring for each student. They are excited to welcome students and start each day with a smile, and they make each day fun and exciting for every child. During the pandemic, teachers and aides have continually practiced enhanced cleaning and social distancing routines, while still providing the students with a safe, nurturing, and healthy educational environment. Aides and assistants assist the students each day with their daily educational activities in math, language arts, science and social studies. They also guide students with learning important lessons of daily living and social skills as well as assisting them with gross and fine motor and language skills.

Working directly with the classroom teacher, they are an essential part of helping our students reach all of their goals. Our Direct Support Professionals at our Seiff Educare Center deserve our appreciation always and we are thankful every day for all that they do.

# HEROES WORK HERE!