



*Lisa (left) and other amazing DSPs at Shoreham*



*Wonderful DSPs at Westhampton Beach*



## **DSP RECOGNITION WEEK!**

### *Shoreham Day Hab*

The DSPs at AHRC Suffolk's Shoreham Day Hab have gone through many changes during the pandemic including wearing masks all day, keeping individuals 6 feet apart from each other, reconfiguring space to add additional areas to maintain social distancing, and keeping personal items separated and labeled. The Day Hab program has been broken into two sessions (AM and PM) with time to deep clean and sanitize after each session. Staff has had to learn how to adhere to stricter guidelines for PPE and sanitation. While we admire all of our DSPs and recognize all their hard work and dedication, there is one DSP in particular who has really remained committed throughout this entire pandemic - Lisa S. From the first day programs closed, Lisa stepped up. She was reassigned to the Bellport IRA while the Shoreham Day Program was closed and worked with the individuals in the home providing services to them, even taking on additional hours when needed. She remained upbeat and reliable while ensuring the safety of the individuals was met, and even went through a successful audit during her time there. Lisa remained working at Bellport for close to four months until the Shoreham Day Hab reopened, when she then reported back to her home base. She even made the many transitions in such a short time seem easy. She comes in early to ensure the program space is thoroughly cleaned, sanitized, and ready to go for the day. She is so understanding of all of the individuals and their needs, making sure to include them in all her conversations, always actively programming and stepping up to do whatever is needed without having to be asked. She has easily taken on all the changes needed in order to operate within this "new normal" and exemplifies the kind of attributes a DSP should possess.

### *Westhampton Beach*

Enough cannot be said about all of the DSPs working at Westhampton Beach; they have been positive, supportive, flexible and have had amazing work ethics during this entire pandemic and they continue to shine. They have all, in one way or another, gone over and above in making the best of this pandemic. They have all brought different aspects to their jobs in order to make the lives of the individuals better during uncertain times. These efforts, above all the activities they created while providing services in the residences, have even included transportation, with staff providing transportation twice a day to ensure individuals can come and enjoy program. When programs first re-opened staff were also providing transportation to and from Shoreham multiple times a day to ensure individuals could attend program. Over and above their responsibilities at program, different staff have gone into the residences to provide services when scheduled staff is out. Staff who are still providing services within residences, and are sometimes going between two different homes in one day in order to provide services for our individuals, continue to go above and beyond to make the days of the lives of our individuals meaningful and fun.

# **HEROES WORK HERE!**