

Nominee: Audra Kennedy

Organization: ResCare Community Living

Nomination Narrative: Direct Support Professional Audra Kennedy works with ResCare Community Living in Newton, Kansas. She is a high school graduate and has spent the last twenty-five years dedicating herself to supporting her clients at ResCare.

Audra is truly the epitome of a Direct Support Professional. She ensures that there are individual support plans in place and that they are followed to make sure the needs of the people she supports are being met. Audra assists with scheduling doctor's appointments for her individuals and consistently follows up with health services to check that the support plan is met. She wants each person she serves to be able to live their best life.

One person Audra cares for is terminally ill. She wants him to have the best quality of life for the rest of the time he is here and took this person on his dream getaway. They went to a lake resort to fish and relax, and this client was able to see sights he had always wanted to experience.

Audra demonstrates leadership through training other Direct Support Professionals to be great caregivers so that her clients receive the best care even when she is not present. Audra makes sure each Direct Support Professional is fully trained and confidently understands the individual support plan of each person.

Audra takes time to get to know each person she supports. She wants to fully understand their needs and how to best support them. She always comes in with a smile on her face, eager to greet and serve each client. Audra makes a difference in each person's life by treating them with respect and care while helping them to achieve all their goals.

As a Certified Nursing Assistant at a behavioral health hospital, Audra has significant experience that she is able to bring to her job as a Direct Support Professional. She understands specific behaviors and knows how to handle each behavior appropriately. She always goes the extra mile to make sure everyone around her receives the highest level of care and respect.

Audra is a fantastic example for others. She leads by example and assists her peers as they learn and grow. She cares for her people and sets out to be a positive influence. Audra is a genuinely loving and caring person, and she demonstrates this on a daily basis.

Nominator: Cat Hamm

Organization: BrightSpring Health Services, parent to ResCare Community Living

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I have reviewed and agreed to the criteria for filming the awards video.

I have obtained approval for this nomination from the submitting agency's Executive Director.