

# Outstanding DSP Award Nomination

## **Award Description:**

**The DSP Award will be presented to a DSP who has positively affected the lives of individuals served by an InterHab member agency. The DSP is someone who has gone above and beyond in their daily work to support individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.**

**NOMINEE: Kris Devlin**

**ORGANIZATION: Johnson County Developmental Supports**

Include a narrative including answers to the following questions. You may also attach a maximum of three letters of support. Additional information may be attached if necessary.

- What is the staff person's job?
- To what needs has the staff person responded and how were they met?
- What are the person's significant accomplishments in his or her workplace?
- List any personal services and/or achievements that are pertinent.
- Provide a biographical sketch of the person.
- Additional information.

## **NOMINATION NARRATIVE:**

Kris Devlin is an outstanding arts specialist with the JCDS Emerging Artists. The artists in the program are true artists who are compelled to create art just like any artist in the community. Kris has guided the 17 artists to grow through one-on-one teaching of skills, providing relevant art videos, and listening to the artists to help them define their interests and successfully execute what they want to convey in an art piece. She creatively incorporates dance and movement to support artists who have a creative block or need to manage stress.

By fostering collaborations with other organizations, Kris has had EA artwork featured as the online playbill for Johnson Country Park and Recreation District's Theater in the Park productions and oversaw a short documentary film featuring the artists which has won multiple awards. She also coordinated the artists' attendance at multiple screenings of the film and helped facilitate a panel discussion which featured two of the artists as presenters.

During COVID, she had the idea for an online store to maintain art sales since no public shows were available. She set up a very successful online store which maintained sales and still flourishes today. The artists are able to access the store thanks to training Kris developed.

Through an available grant, Kris had the vision to connect artists with art professionals in the community to talk and get feedback on their artwork. These professionals included an art professor, a gallery owner, and an art career development specialist. It was exciting to see how the artists engaged and how much they had in common. The artists in the EA program were inspired by these meetings.

Kris has submitted, had accepted, and sold various artists' artwork to regional gallery shows. Recently, she encouraged and supported several artists to participate in a show on their own. This August, three of the artists will be showing independent of JCDS Emerging Artists at an art show.

Kris innately fosters an increase of confidence, acceptance, personal growth, and quality of life.

**NAME OF PERSON MAKING THIS NOMINATION: Cary Odell**

**ORGANIZATION: Johnson County Developmental Supports**

**TELEPHONE: 913-826-2226**

**E-MAIL: [cary.odell@jocogov.org](mailto:cary.odell@jocogov.org)**

*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.*

Send this form via email to [mshreve@interhab.org](mailto:mshreve@interhab.org)

**The deadline to submit award nominations is June  
2!**

## President's Award Nomination for Kris Devlin

I would like to nominate Kris Devlin for Interhab's 2023 President's Award. Kris Devlin is an outstanding arts specialist with the Johnson County Developmental Supports Emerging Artists Program. The artists in the program are genuine artists who feel compelled to create art just like any other artist in their community. Kris combines her knowledge of art and her passion for helping people to encourage people to become the most authentic version of themselves as artists. Kris guides the 17 artists to grow professionally by offering personalized one-on-one skill teaching and by providing relevant art videos unique to the art form the artists utilize. Kris listens closely to the artists and helps them define their interests and successfully execute what they want to convey in any given art piece. She creatively incorporates dance and movement to support artists who have a creative block or need to manage stress.

By fostering collaborations with other organizations, Kris has had EA artwork featured as the online playbill for Johnson Country Park and Recreation District's Theater in the Park productions. Kris also oversaw a short documentary film featuring the artists which has won multiple awards. She coordinated the artists' attendance at multiple screenings of the film and helped facilitate a panel discussion which featured two of the artists as presenters.

During COVID, Kris had the idea for an online store to maintain art sales since no public shows were available. Since the onset of the idea, Kris has set up a very successful online store which maintains sales and is flourishing to this day. The artists themselves, are now able to access the store, thanks to specific training that Kris has developed for them.

Through an available grant, Kris had the vision to connect artists with art professionals in the community. Through this unique opportunity, EA Artists were able to talk with and engage with professionals who offered invaluable feedback regarding their artwork. These professionals included an art professor, a gallery owner, and an art career development specialist. It was exciting to see how the artists engaged and how much they had in common with the professionals they met. The artists in the EA program were inspired by these meetings.

Kris has submitted, had accepted, and sold various artists' artwork to regional gallery shows. Recently, she encouraged and supported several artists to participate in an art show on their own. This August, three of the artists will be showing independent of JCDS Emerging Artists at an art show.

Kris innately fosters an increase of confidence, acceptance, personal growth, and quality of life. The EA artist's lives are changed because of the time and commitment Kris has devoted to supporting them in their dreams and I hope that this recognition will be a small reminder of the great impact that she has had on the people she supports at Emerging Artists.

