

# Outstanding Personal Growth Award Nomination

## **Award Description:**

**The Outstanding Personal Growth Award will be presented to a person who receives services from an InterHab member and who has attained significant goals in his or her personal life. (e.g. move from institution to the community, independent living, education, relationships, etc.)**

**NOMINEE:** Susan Wolfe

**ORGANIZATION:** Big Lakes Developmental Center

Provide 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 challenges has this person faced?
- How has he or she met those challenges?
- What are this person's significant accomplishments?
- What supports did this person have in accomplishing his or her goals?
- Are there other goals this person is working on reaching?
- Provide a biographical sketch of this person.
- Additional information.

In the past, Susan has struggled with emotional regulation and positive communication with others. She frequently became upset when one of her peers was not following a rule or getting on her nerves. Susan struggled with being possessive over her work and not willing or open when her peers were offered the same job. Susan struggled with taking redirection from staff she would become escalated which almost weekly resulted in verbal and physical aggression, property damage, and often police involvement.

Susan has worked very hard on learning emotional regulation through therapy and utilizing those tools throughout the day when things are tricky. Susan has recognized when things were difficult for her and has informed staff when she decided it was best for her to stay home for the day. She will talk with staff and ask questions before she jumps to correcting her peers or engages with them in conversation before it becomes a confrontation. Susan and the staff work together to follow her behavior management plan consistently. Susan has been able to recognize behaviors and reactions in others similar to things she might have had in the past and reflect positively to continue making healthier choices moving forward.

Susan has agreed to more work opportunities, including the cleaning crew, the farm crew, mailing, and packaging contracts when her typical assembly work is unavailable. In the past, changes in her family or apartment environment could be a stressor for her and result in a low threshold for tolerance by others. However, Susan has faced many changes, including moving to a new apartment well and successfully adjusting to the new environment. Susan has also adjusted to staff changes, which were very difficult for her in the past.

Susan has a goal to work on outside contracts. Still, her mobility is a barrier to doing that, so Susan is working with staff to do more outside tasks similar to those contracts to hopefully work up to working on those crews. Last fall, Susan received her first nomination as a client of the year in her 28 years of

service at Big Lakes. It has been many years since Susan has had police involvement, and only once in a couple of years has she escalated to the point of property destruction. According to her behavior management plan, Susan has been suspended from day services almost weekly in the past. Last August, Susan's support team presented her with a card that several staff members signed congratulating her on her growth and improvement, with only two suspensions in an entire year.

**NAME OF PERSON MAKING THIS NOMINATION:** Liz Holle

**ORGANIZATION:** Big Lakes Developmental Center

**TELEPHONE:** 785-776-9201

**E-MAIL:** lholle@biglakes.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 7!**