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September 11, 2018

## Happy Direct Support Professional Week!

### The unsung heroes of CSS!

CSS is happy to celebrate Direct Support Professional Week (September 9-15), a national week of recognition of all the important work that direct support professionals (DSPs) provide to families with individuals with intellectual/developmental disabilities (I/DD).

The role of a DSP is to provide services to children, teens and/or adults with (I/DD) who live at home with their family or independently in the community.

"I love my job. I can honestly say I never had a job that I loved until I came to CSS. I just can't say goodbye. It really is the best job and it is so rewarding. It gives me a special feeling. I do not have any grandchildren so I share my love with the participants. Parents are so thankful and appreciative."  
-Jean P., CSS DSP for 10 years.



DSPs have very hands on roles in serving our participants and their families. They provide full time caregivers with short term, temporary relief from their constant demanding responsibility of providing care to a loved one. This gives them time to relax, run errands, or even work outside the home. Respite also keeps the child engaged in fun and functional activities while the DSP provides constant care and supervision to protect their safety in the absence of a family member.



"I love my job because I get to see the smiles on the individuals faces when they do something that they thought they could never do. I enjoy watching them become more independent and confident."  
-Ellie R., CSS DSP for 13 years.

Respite allows individuals to stay in their own home or explore the community. Common Respite activities include assisting with homework, seeing a movie, visiting a park, reading a book, job searching and job coaching, or helping with living skills like grocery shopping, light housekeeping, and self-care. Respite is the most requested service by family members, and yet it is incredibly in short demand.

"I enjoy contributing to participants' goals and being available to help them. I love the social aspect with the participants and being there when they need someone. I let them know they are not alone and I am always there for them. The families are so appreciative and warm-hearted. I almost feel like I am part of the participant's family."  
-David Z., CSS DSP for 13 years.



During this weeklong recognition, photos of DSPs with participants are being showcased in the lobby of the CSS administrative office. The photos are a reminder of the impact DSPs have had on participants. As a thank you for everything they do, donuts and coffee will be provided for them at all three CSS locations throughout the week. Also, each day, two staff members who have gone above and beyond will be recognized in a staff email. Each DSP will also receive a hand written thank you card to show our appreciation. Our DSPs have an important role in our participants' lives and we can't thank them enough for everything that they do.

Want to join a great team? CSS is always looking for motivated applicants. CSS is hiring full and part-time positions including DSPs where you can help people every day. You can help people with disabilities live the lives they deserve. For more information please visit our website:  
<http://cssservices.org/careers>

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**OUR MISSION**  
CSS is a private nonprofit agency that initiates, provides and promotes services for people with intellectual/developmental disabilities and their families, within

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Want to join a great team? CSS is always looking for motivated applicants. CSS is hiring full and part-time positions including DSPs where you can help



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