

- DSP Spotlight -

December 2024

Connie Mantz



What do you like to do in your free time? On a perfect day, I enjoy being on the bike with my husband. Other days, I cherish time with my mom or treasured friends. I'm also committed to decluttering and downsizing with a goal to become what I consider a "moderate minimalist"! Reading is another pastime I enjoy.

How long have you worked as a Direct Support Professional? 8 ½ yrs.

How did you start in the field? I worked both as a financial coordinator and surgical scheduler for 20 years and was burned out. After taking time off, a friend encouraged me to work in this field. At first, I said I wasn't cut out for this field, but since she kept trying to recruit me, I said "OK, I'll give it a whirl!" Here I am 9 years later.

Has there ever been anyone that has stood out to you as a mentor in this field? There are so many people that I admire but it wouldn't be fair to mention one specific individual. Mentorship traits are found across a vast range of our DSPs all the way to our top leaders, our front desk to our financial and HR depts., maintenance and all those in between.

What is your favorite thing to do with the people you serve? Doing the things that a client likes to do is important. Whatever it may be, I aim for a mix of happiness, smiles and accomplishment. We watch game shows, clean rooms, take a random drive. Sometimes we sit around the table talking about various topics. I enjoy bringing those pause and reflection moments. For instance, the value of \$1; why it is important to make good choices when loading up the grocery cart; we talk about rights and responsibilities.

What is your favorite part of being a Direct Support Professional? It's more than a job for me. I'm not perfect and may be having my own bad day, but I try to catch myself and be humbled. To be humbled brings me reward that I can be there to make a difference for someone and extend a helping hand. I hope that someone would do the same for me, if needed, someday.

What makes Connie a great DSP? Connie is an anchor, a firm foundation in the lives of the individuals she supports. The individuals know she cares about them as individuals. She is there to have fun, get the chores done and console them when they are sad or afraid. During her tenure at their home, they have grown in independence. Connie has been with The Society at the same HPC site for seven years. She is dependable, steady and quiet. The Society staff and individuals are truly thankful for Connie.

Thank you for your outstanding contributions to helping people with developmental disabilities and their families in Medina County. Thank you for sharing your dedication and commitment to making a difference in the lives of others every single day

