

- DSP Spotlight -

February 2025

Tabitha Kelly



What do you like to do in your free time? In my free time I like to be with my family, quilting or baking. I also like to travel to my daughter's house in South Carolina, go to the OBX or see other places and countries. I also love to purge my home and organize it as I am somewhat of a minimalist. I love quiet time and spending time with the Lord. I love being with my husband, children and my, soon to be, 16 grandchildren! I like going to their events and seeing their accomplishments.

How long have you worked as a Direct Support Professional? I have been an Independent Provider for 22 years in March!

How did you start in the field? I first worked at Willowood Nursing Home in 1991 on the DD side. I fell in love with the persons I worked with. Then was a sub at Windfall School for a while. In 2003, I became an Independent Provider. My husband also worked for the Medina County Board of DD which opened my eyes to a whole new and wonderful world!

Has there ever been anyone that has stood out to you as a mentor in this field? My husband, John Kelly. But truly there are so many others that I have learned from and respect in the field.

What is your favorite thing to do with the people you serve? I love taking them to places so they can experience having fun, seeing and learning new things. I also love talking with them and hearing about their feelings and thoughts on matters. And if they are having a hard time, helping them navigate through that. I also like to make sure they know their rights and what they mean. But the best thing is laughing with them.

What is your favorite part of being a Direct Support Professional?

Seeing my people happy and being a part of the lives of some of the most fabulous people I know. I absolutely love my job!

Narrative: Tabitha has been a provider for over 20 years! She loves her job. She always gives 110% of her effort to her individuals. They're like family to her. She has gone above and beyond in her field. When a client was sick with cancer she took him into his home until his last days. She continues to help other DSP's getting into the field with how to do the job, and do it right. She has been a shoulder to lean on for parents of her clients who need help. She truly is exemplary!

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.

