2022 Alliance Direct Support Professional of the Year Nomination Form

*IDD Awareness Day will be a virtual event this year on February 23, 2021. Be sure to invite your nominee(s) to attend virtually when the information comes out; we will recognize all nominees.*

Please **TYPE** one page or less telling us why the DSP you are nominating deserves recognition. This could include information on creativity; demonstrated proficiency on the job and/or leadership capabilities; information about the relationships s/he supports; work accomplished in building an effective social network and social capital for the people served; advocacy or effecting change on behalf of people with IDD; and information on the sacrifices made in order to be a Direct Support Professional.

We encourage you to have **at least one, but not to exceed two**, people from your organization nominated.  Please coordinate with your management staff before sending in multiple nominations. The more nominations we get, the more meaningful the award will be.  Additionally, we can use our local nominees to garner a little media attention; we will be sending out a template to members for a press release before the event honoring our DSP nominees.

* Name of DSP to be nominated: Deborah Rose
* Organization Name: North Metro Community Services
* DSP Nominee’s Job Title: DSP
* Length of Nominee’s time with current agency: 8 years
* Years of service as a DSP regardless of agency:
* Name and Contact Info for Person Submitting this Nomination: Tracy Bauknecht, tracy.bauknecht@nmetro.org

303-255-6560

Nominations are due by 4:00pm on Monday February 7, 2022

Late nominations will be accepted and acknowledged with a nomination certificate but will not eligible for award consideration.

Please use the next page to tell us why the DSP you are nominating deserves recognition. Nominations will only be accepted in MICROSOFT WORD format! Do NOT send as a PDF or scanned file. Please limit to one page. Email submission to kkampbell@alliancecolorado.org. If you have any questions, please contact Kylie Kampbell via email or call 303-832-1618 x. 12

I want to say a few words about my nominee, though I am sure this will not do her justice.

Deborah Rose has been person-centered since she’s worked for NMCS, long before it was something we taught, anticipating as well as asking folks what their personal choices and preferences are, etc. – this is something that comes very naturally to Deborah.

Just for a little background, Deborah is incredibly creative with her ideas for projects and recently did a fantastic ocean-themed project over the course of a couple of weeks, finishing with making ocean-creatures as an art project, which everyone really enjoyed.  Deborah has always been a ‘start to finish’ person, where she begins a project with her crew and follows through to the very end, keeping everyone engaged in the activity.

In early-COVID, when day program began running again after the quarantine, Deborah was one of the first staff who began going into homes to deliver day services. She was pecked by roosters, snorted at by pet pigs, and nipped by a dog, and never hesitated to go back to these animal-filled homes to continue to deliver much needed, quality programming.

She has been stuck by a tornado while working and locked down in a persons’ home due to criminal activity in the neighborhood. She continued to go back and has handled each situation with grace and dignity.

Which brings me to my nomination.

On June 21st, Deborah and her group had plans to learn the history of St. Anne’s Catholic Church in Olde Town Arvada.  They were enjoying a beautiful afternoon in the area when all hell broke loose.  There was an active shooter just feet from them.  When Deborah heard the shooting began, she did everything she could to ensure the safety of her group.  They tried to hide, but when it seemed like there was no other choice but to run, Deborah ran with all of her participants to find safety.  Because of Deborah’s diligence, her ability to stay calm, and her quick thinking (as well as pounding on storefront windows and screaming for help), a local business opened their doors to her group and led them in to safety.

Deborah never hesitated.  She never hesitated to keep her group safe, assuring them throughout the entire ordeal.  Deborah had several folks with her that had mobility-hindrances, and she kept her group together and as calm as possible while getting them to safety.  When that local business finally let them into the shop during the shooting, Deborah kept everyone in her group as calm as she could, assuring everyone that they were safe, remaining in contact with her superiors, communicating concerns, but most importantly, being a “hero” in the eyes of her group.  When this terrible tragedy ended and it was safe to get folks home, one of Deborah’s participants told his provider as he was being picked up that afternoon, “Deborah saved my life today.”  Deborah saved everyone that afternoon.

Deborah and her group took a couple of days off after this ordeal to process their feelings and try to get some peace, then joined back up together that Thursday to talk about what they’d all been through and to celebrate Deborah and one another.  There were signs made for Deborah, where her crew let her know that they believed she was their hero, which is true.

Deborah and her group were able to return to the scene of the shooting one week later, where they signed their names on the fallen officers’ memorial and recounted what had happened to them on June 21st.  Looking at the bullet holes in the local storefronts, right by where they had been standing was eye opening.  They all visited the store that allowed them shelter during the shooting, where they presented staff with flowers and thank you cards; they all let the storeowner know how grateful they were for allowing them to escape a very dangerous situation.  The group was able to visit with a local Arvada police officer during their return to the scene of the shooting, and each one of Deborah’s crew thanked the officer for keeping everyone safe, today and always.

Deborah is a hero.  Deborah and her crew will forever be bonded by this experience and I am incredibly grateful to be able to call Deborah one of our stellar Day Program employees.