

Staff In The Spotlight



Teresa Lombardi

Per Diem Community Habilitation Support Specialist

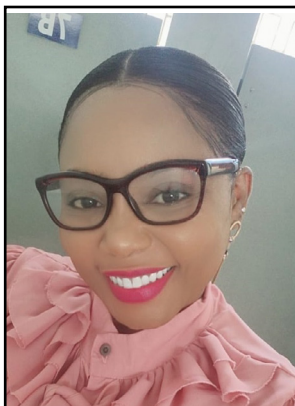
Teresa consistently goes above and beyond in her support of a program participant, volunteering not only with Sharing Shelf to distribute diapers and clothing to those in need, but also with a non-profit organization dedicated to addressing the challenges faced by senior citizens. In addition to these volunteer opportunities, Teresa ensures that the person she supports participates in community walks, promoting both physical fitness and social engagement. These walks provide an opportunity to make friends, connect with the local community, and meet others, fostering a sense of belonging and well-being.



Margaret Burton-Forrester

Treatment Coordinator and Substitute Driver

Margaret received this award for her exceptional support of someone from our Yonkers Center who unexpectedly lost their mother. Upon hearing the news while at the program, Margaret arranged for the person's cousins to come and share the sad news together. During this difficult time, she helped coordinate new living arrangements, transportation, and respite services. Margaret has been a constant source of comfort and support, always offering a listening ear and ensuring the person had the help needed to navigate this challenging transition.



Tremaine McCalla

DSP, Pemart Residence

Tremaine was nominated for her outstanding support of the residents at the Pemart home in Peekskill, where she has worked to enhance and beautify the space. She helps residents identify their personal interests and incorporates these into their living areas, creating rooms that reflect their personalities and passions. Thanks to Tremaine's efforts, the residents take pride in their spaces and feel a stronger connection to their home. In the short time she's been with Pemart, she has made significant improvements, greatly enhancing the quality of life for the people who live there.



Beverly Williams

Respite House Manager

She is a dedicated and compassionate leader who ensures the Respite House is always welcoming, safe, and supportive for participants and their families. She creates a true home-like environment where individuals can relax, have fun, and enjoy meaningful community activities.

Beverly skillfully coordinates care on a rolling basis, meeting the needs of families during critical times. Her commitment is deeply valued, as reflected by one grateful parent who shared, "Beverly is an absolute gem... knowing she is safe and happy is a true blessing."



O'Neil Thompson

Direct Support Professional

O'Neil is one very special person. He demonstrated exceptional attentiveness and compassion when he noticed a person he supports showing signs of medical distress while driving to Hawthorne.

O'Neil immediately pulled over, called 911, and calmly reassured and monitored the person in the van until emergency personnel arrived. O'Neil's quick response ensured timely medical care and reflects The Arc Westchester's commitment to safety, health, and respectful support.



Amina Coleman

Direct Support Professional

Amina is always making sure residents experience a warm, personalized home life. She honors individual preferences by helping decorate the home, planning personalized birthday celebrations, and supporting residents in arranging their bedrooms to reflect their unique styles. Amina's dedication exemplifies Core Competency #6: Having a Home. Congratulations, Amina!



Juliana Lee

Registered Behavior Technician

Julie is an outstanding Registered Behavior Technician who consistently promotes positive outcomes through compassionate, person-centered support.

Recently, she helped someone who was upset about an earlier interaction by listening, validating his feelings, and guiding him through coping strategies. Her calm and supportive approach helped the person to regain control of his emotions and enjoy the rest of his day. This is just one example of Julie's ongoing dedication to supporting the people she serves with professionalism, empathy, and respect.



Kemela Smith

DSP, Decatur Residence

For the past five years, Kemela Smith has demonstrated exceptional dedication to the health and wellness of the people she supports at the Decatur Residence. Her attention to detail, commitment to teamwork, and proactive approach during medical appointments helps to ensure everyone receives the highest quality care.

Recently, Kemela identified an important error in a medical consultation document and took the initiative to have it corrected, safeguarding the person's continued care. Her diligence, professionalism, and advocacy make her an invaluable member of the team.



Sophia Brown, Medical DSP

Scarsdale Residence

Sophia has been an invaluable team member at the Scarsdale residence. She excels at coordinating services, managing medical appointments, and fostering a sense of community, especially during the holidays, where she brings joy and happiness. She is called "The Hostess with the Mostest!."

Her professionalism, resourcefulness, and commitment to ensuring the well-being and happiness of the residents make her so important to both Scarsdale and The Arc Westchester.



Michael Cunningham, DSP

Scott Place Residence

Michael Cunningham consistently goes above and beyond by not only teaching Scott Place residents about healthy food choices but also preparing balanced meals every evening. His efforts ensure that each resident enjoys a nutritious meal daily, fostering both their physical well-being and overall happiness.

Michael's dedication to enhancing their home life experience and promoting good health makes him a standout team member and a deserving candidate for this award.



Christina McNama, DSP

Cortlandt Residence

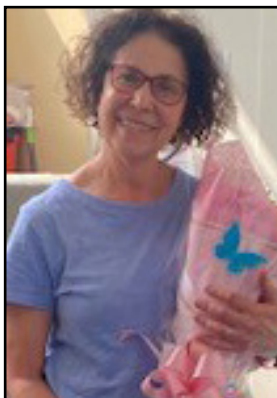
Christina McNama is being recognized for her exceptional commitment to putting people first and promoting happiness through her work. She consistently goes above and beyond to build meaningful connections, respecting cultural and personal preferences while fostering individuality and personal expression. Christina's dedication to diversity and cultivating supportive relationships makes her an outstanding role model deserving of this recognition.



Lisa Pollard,

Community Planner, Hawthorne

Lisa deserves this recognition for many reasons; however, she went above and beyond in empowering someone she supports to advocate for themselves, grow more independent, and access necessary services. Recognizing some personal restrictions, Lisa provided a safe space for self-expression and consistently advocated in meetings, ensuring all their needs and wishes were heard. Thanks to Lisa's unwavering support, this person now lives independently, participates in recreational activities, and has gained confidence.



Christine Perfetti

Day Services Registered Nurse

Christine has been a dedicated registered nurse at the Yonkers and New Rochelle Day Habilitation Programs for over four years, consistently going above and beyond in her care and support of those attending the programs. Her exceptional attention to detail, commitment to excellence, and compassionate approach make her a candidate for this award. Christine has an innate ability to connect with the people she supports and her colleagues. She always takes the time to check in on both staff and participants, ensuring everyone is well cared for, all while maintaining a warm and friendly personality.



Erika Harrison

Habilitation Instructor, Yonkers

Erika demonstrated initiative and person-centered support by working closely with a person who expressed interest in trying a new activity. After researching community opportunities, she identified a karate school that offers inclusive programming for people with disabilities.

The person was thrilled to participate and now looks forward to attending karate classes twice a month, providing a meaningful opportunity for skill development, social engagement, and personal enjoyment.



Sandra Crawford

Assistant Residence Manager, Palisade Residence

Sandra is an invaluable member of our team who consistently demonstrates genuine care and dedication to the health and well-being of the people we support. She goes above and beyond to ensure nutritious, well-balanced meals are available, whether by guiding staff, promoting healthy choices, or personally purchasing healthy food options when needed.

Her compassion, commitment, and leadership create a positive, health-focused environment that benefits everyone in the home. Sandra takes great pride in her work, and her efforts have a meaningful impact on the quality of life of those in our care. She is truly deserving of this recognition.



Donald Ruffin

Assistant Manager, Respite House

Donald demonstrated outstanding compassion and dedication when he stepped in to support a new individual who arrived at the Respite House without medical records, family contacts, or proper intake documentation, and with an unhealed wound requiring medical attention.

Taking immediate action, he personally ensured the person received proper treatment at an Urgent Care, obtained prescribed medications, and continued efforts to reconnect with family members. His commitment to the person's health, safety, and dignity exemplifies going above and beyond in his role as Assistant Manager.