

***DIRECT SUPPORT PROFESSIONAL (DSP) RECOGNITION WEEK DECLARED BY
GOVERNOR PATRICK AS SEPTEMBER 8TH – 14TH, 2013***

The American Network of Community Options and Resources (ANCOR) has initiated the process of having the Senate and Governors across the country declare the second week of September as ***DSP Recognition Week*** for many years. This year it is September 8th through the 14th. We appreciate ANCOR's efforts to get our DSPs recognized in the Senate.

It is a weeklong celebration of the accomplishments of Direct Support Professionals not only across the country, but also right here in Massachusetts. For the second year in a row, Governor Patrick has declared the second week of September ***DSP Recognition Week***. We applaud the Governor in recognizing the work of our direct support staff who provide care and support to thousands of people with disabilities.

Steve Brunkhorst wrote: ***“Feeling appreciated is one of the most important needs that people have. When you share with someone your appreciation and gratitude, they will not forget you. Appreciation will return to you many times.”***

At WCI, the key ingredients to providing exceptional services is a caring, committed, well-trained and educated workforce that provides support and encouragement while developing each person's full potential. Given our Direct Support Professionals do not make a great deal of money, it is important to recognize their accomplishments and commitment. During this week it is important specifically to show them that we admire them, are thankful for their tireless efforts and the great work that they do. They develop relationships with the individuals that we support and give them a life in the community. They make them feel good about themselves and give them the skills to achieve independence and participation in many areas.

At WCI, we recognize several DSPs throughout the year for the outstanding work that they do through our Employee Recognition Committee funded by the Board of Directors. We surprise them and give them a gift of their choice, balloons and a commendation for their file for those things that have made a difference in someone's life.

However, during this special week of the year, we go above and beyond and give them a celebration to recognize all that they do all year round. We let them know what they do is valued and spectacular for the people that they support and the mission of the organization.

- Paul supports two employees at the DCR at Walden Pond, 20 hours/week in their new job.
- Wally and Elizabeth support Carlton who lost 35 lbs and no longer requires insulin injections.
- The entire Team assisted Latricia to lose 30 lbs and stop smoking.

- Lauren and Maggie supported Renee to move into her own apartment with 9 hours a week of support.

These are just a few of the wonderful accomplishments that WCI's DSPs do every day.

Gerard C. Eakedale wrote: ***"Recognition is the greatest motivator."***

Please join me and WCI in celebrating all of the accomplishments of DSPs in the State who provide so many exceptional supports to improve people's lives every day.

A BIG THANK YOU GOES OUT TO GOVERNOR PATRICK TO DECLARE THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 8TH THROUGH THE 14TH, 2013 DSP RECOGNITION WEEK IN MASSACHUSETTS.

Nancy Silver Hargreaves, President & CEO

WCI – WORK, COMMUNITY, INDEPENDENCE

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Providing quality supports to people with intellectual disabilities, autism and acquired brain injury for over 35 years!