



# Living Innovations®

**Our Mission:** Living Innovations provides support to people with disabilities to have a good life at home and in the community.

## Southern Maine Fall Newsletter—DSP

### SEPTEMBER IS DSP APPRECIATION MONTH

**E**very fall we take the month of September nationwide to celebrate Direct Support Professionals. Here at Living Innovations, we honor our Direct Support Professionals as well as our Behavioral Health Professionals. This year in addition to our events during the week of September 11-17, 2016, we decided to say a special THANK YOU with this DSP Edition of our office newsletter, filled with appreciation and gratitude from all levels within and outside of our agency.

Even though saying thank you does not begin to describe how grateful we are for your hard work, we thank you from the bottom of our hearts. You enrich the lives of the individuals you support, and your selfless acts do not go unnoticed. Our individuals are able to be more independent, more creative, and more active because of your dedication. We could go on and on about the amazing work that you do every day, but we thought to start it might mean more coming from the people whose lives you impact on a daily basis. Here is what some of them had to say:



“Thank you for taking me to go get coffee.” – Kevin H.

“Thank you for being fun, and not judging us.” – Leah L.

“Thank you for being funny, and nice.” – Hayley B.

Thank you for helping me.” – Jeff D.

“Thank you for always answering my questions.” – Bob S.

“Thank you for balloon animals.” – Jason S.

“Thank you for working with me on getting my license.” – Arielle R.

“Thank you for teaching me how to cook.” – Tom R.

“Thank you for taking me out into the community.” – Richard R.

“Thank you for taking us to karate.” – Ryan M.

“Thank you for letting me listen to Disney Pandora!” – Arthur H.

## EMPLOYEE OF THE QUARTER

### DSP Kevin Foster



**K**evin Foster is an outstanding staff who works in the Community Connections program in Saco. He has become a leader and has gained the respect of his team, guardians, peers, and outside stakeholders. Kevin strives to make the most of his time with the people he supports.

He recently started a fishing club for individuals, including making it possible for them to get their fishing licenses. Kevin is an extremely hard worker, and upholds the mission and values of Living Innovations every day. It is with great pride that we recognize him as Employee for the Quarter for Fall 2016. We are also very proud to announce that Kevin was recently promoted to a new Team Lead position in Community Connections as well! Great work and congratulations, Kevin!

Also nominated were: Charlie Barrett (DSP), Laurie Cohen (admin), Sam Cooper (DSP), Janet Dardano (DSP), Kristina Scott (DSP), and Sandy Bradley (who was still a TL then!). Congrats!

Geoffrey W. and DSP Eileen at Special Olympics



DSP Meagan with Kayla T. and Leah L. at camp



## HOME PROVIDERS ARE DSPs TOO!

**D**SPs have one of the most rewarding jobs out there. They have the opportunity to watch the people they support grow, watch the pride of accomplishment sweep over their faces, and help them when they stumble in life. Even though the job of a DSP can be fun and exciting, it is not a walk in the park. There are days when you have all you can do to hold yourself together through a shift. However, the days when there are successes are the days that make it all worth it. One thing that we often forget is that Home Providers are DSPs too. But, Home Providers do not just show up to a shift. They open their hearts and their homes to our individuals. They invite them to join their families and make sure that their every need is taken care of. They spend every single day with the people we support. They see them when they wake up in the morning and when it's time for them to go to bed. They're with them during birthdays, holidays, and difficult time periods during their year. Home Providers are DSPs 24/7. So when you next see a Home Provider, don't forget to appreciate and thank their work too!



Claude S. with Home Provider Billie Jo



BHP Monty with Andrew K-S

### WHAT DOES BEING A DSP MEAN TO YOU?

*“It’s rewarding to know that we’re making a difference. There are no words to express how awesome this job is. The individuals put a smile on my face every day.”*

—Dannelle, Sanford

*“Having compassion & being dedicated!”*

—Jess, Saco

*“To help others love life.”* —Anonymous, Saco

*“Helping others achieve the best self that they can be.”*

—Lisa, Saco

*“Selflessly supporting others who need the help; the opportunities, places and people I encounter here; the smiles I put on the faces of people I support. It makes me feel good to make a difference.”*

—David, Sanford



## WE ASKED COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS... WHAT DO YOU LIKE ABOUT YOUR STAFF?

Desiree – “She’s funny!” “She’s a great leader”

Jess – “She’s always willing to help.” “A great listener.”

Nichole – “She’s very funny.”

Hadley – “She’s fun to be around!”

Kevin – “One word – awesome!”

Megan – “She’s a terrible singer (but in a good way)!”  
“She’s really funny.”

Luke – “He’s a good cook!”

Kristina – “She’s always smiling, and plays  
Disney Pandora!”

Lisa – “She drives a nice Volvo.” “She brings us to new  
places, and is very nice.”

Jason – “He’s very funny and outgoing.”

Jacob – “He’s very quiet, but nice!”

Hilary – “She’s great at adding new activities for the  
calendar.” “Great sense of humor.”

Steve – “He is great!” “He drives a VW!”

Ashley – “She’s a great staff; very nice!”

Ebony – “She’s the best staff ever!!”

Chris G – “He’s loud, but funny.”



### SPOTLIGHT ON: DSP SONYA THERIAULT

**S**onya Theriault has worked for Living Innovations for 3 years as a DSP. What is really exceptional is that she has worked with her same individual for over 7 years! Not only does Sonya do a fantastic job with the usual day-to-day of her job as a DSP, she also goes above and beyond with determination and creativity to improve the quality of life for the person she supports. Sonya has helped coordinate trips like going to Foxwoods Casino, Boston Red Sox games, and Boston Bruins games. At one point, her individual expressed an interest in sailing. Sonya researched opportunities and found out that the Maine Special Olympics, partnered with SailMaine, offer sailing free for persons with disabilities right on Casco Bay. Sonya went and got certified as a sailing coach and now takes her individual out sailing weekly all around the Casco Bay. Sonya truly embodies the values of putting her individual first, strengthening communities, and never giving up. Way to go Sonya! For more information on SailMaine, go to: <http://www.sailmaine.org/programs/special-olympics/>



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**This place survives on the commitment and dedication of passionate employees like you. Thank you for your hard work**



### EXPERIENCED PROFESSIONALS CELEBRATING SOUTHERN MAINE LONGEVITY

**We want to extend** special thanks to our long term direct care staff. You've seen it all, heard it all, and done it all—and then some!

Combined these professionals represent over 134 years of experience! Wow! Thank you!

#### OVER 10 YEARS

Karen Meyer  
Jen Walker  
Donna Packard  
Hilary Stephenson

#### OVER 5 YEARS

Johanne Dion  
Sue Niemoeller  
Becky Hill  
Don Frechette  
April Kimball  
Charlie Barrett  
Janet Dardano  
Chris Gervais  
Marissa Sevigny  
Erica Paradis  
Denise Tilly  
Heather Crowe  
Suzanne Campbell  
Lila Hamilton

#### OVER 3 YEARS

Danielle Harmon  
Kathleen Browne  
Eileen Dumont  
Hadley See  
Tha Meas  
Kristina Scott  
Sonya Theriault  
Sandra Bonville  
Gail Mills



Toni D. with DSP Dani on the farm



DSP April and April W.



Field Day crew from all programs



### TEAM PLAYER TO TEAM LEADER: SANDRA BRADLEY

“I started working as a DSP in September 2013. The first value I learned was needed was teamwork. Getting along with others was easy, but teamwork means more than that. I ran to a staff’s rescue when she got a flat tire. I filled in when someone was suddenly unable to work. Nothing more than anyone else would do, but it means a lot more when you work on a team. I was quickly hooked and expressed an interest in moving up in the company. An opportunity opened quickly when someone left. I was promoted to Team Leader and was extremely overwhelmed at first to say the least! But as a Team Leader I loved being able to be more hands on with developing our individuals’ goals and making their lives a bit happier. And I learned that our Living Innovations values were needed to survive. Support people first or else! Be Optimistic and Cheerful even if it kills you! All kidding aside, we have an amazing community that represents all of our values and that have made it easy to want to grow with LI. I was recently promoted to Coordinator, which has its own new challenges, but I look forward to many years with Living Innovations and new opportunities to come! The fulfillment of helping people reach their goals plays a major role in keeping me here and ready to grow with their needs.”

### WE’LL SEE YOU FOR DSP RECOGNITION!



#### SACO CARNIVAL

WHEN: Thursday September 15, 2 PM–6 PM  
WHERE: 238 North St. Saco

You asked for it, we planned it! We’re putting on a carnival of fun for you to enjoy! We’re going to have an adult-size bounce house and slide, caricature artist, games, photo booth, cotton candy, hot dogs, a fortune teller and more! Win tickets

to spin the prize wheel for goodies large and small- and chances to dunk your Coordinator or Program Manager in the dunk tank!

#### SANFORD BBQ

WHEN: Tuesday September 13, 3p-6p  
WHERE: 278 Main St. Springvale

If you’re not interested in the carnival or cannot attend, we’re also hosting an outdoor BBQ at Holdsworth Park, rain or shine on the 13th! There will be swimming, plenty of food and socializing, games, music, prizes and more! We hope to see you there!

For those who cannot attend these events talk to your manager about other ways each office is celebrating you during DSP Recognition Week, Sept 11-17.





# Living Innovations®

238 North Street, Saco, ME 04072

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## Our Mission:

Living Innovations provides support to people with disabilities to have a good life at home and in the community.

## Our Values:

### Supporting People is First

We believe each person is valuable and will put individuals at the center of all we do.

### Honor All Support Providers

Our direct support providers are the key to our success.

### Strengthen Communities

We believe that by including all people, communities become stronger.

### Uncompromising Honesty and Integrity

We embrace the highest standards of ethics in all of our relationships, services and business practices.

### Never Give Up

We will work creatively to support lives, building on people's strengths.

### Optimistic and Cheerful

We will be positive, pleasant and hopeful.

### Growth Through Innovation

We will find new and better ways to serve people, and grow our organization.

### Teamwork

We will work well with others in the interest of the individuals and families we support.

[www.LivingInnovations.com](http://www.LivingInnovations.com)