

2022 DSP of the Year: Ellen Crocker

- Ellen has a natural, joyful approach to everything she does. She recently worked with an individual on horseback riding as requested in the person's PCP. The individual really wanted to try riding, but she was really frightened. Ellen patiently showed up every week with the individual. After patiently helping the individual learn more about the animal, Ellen finally assisted the individual in getting up in the saddle. It was a really big triumph. It took time, patience, and a positive attitude to reach this milestone. The individual is now riding every week.
- Ellen has been employed for 34 years and continues to shine in everything she does. When we started the new HCBS delivery of services, it was a really big change for all the DSPs. Most were nervous, not to mention a bit negative. They liked the 'OLD" way. Ellen would speak up in these meetings and share her enthusiasm for the opportunity to try new things and find "fun" activities in the community. She was very influential in embracing this community integration service.
- Ellen after 34 years continues to share her heart and soul with all the individuals that receive services from Work First. She takes the time to learn what interests and needs each person has and she naturally makes the connection with them. The individuals love to work with Ellen, and her positive attitude is witnessed and felt by every employee and consumer at Work First. She takes the time to say Thank you for everything. Her appreciation and gratitude are contagious. She is often heard saying, " I love my job and feel so blessed." She is a one-of-a-kind DSP and it is Work First that is BLESSED!