



30 years

Living the principles



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*I love residential... it's my niche. I love to watch the individuals grow, and I especially love to be a part of their achievements. **Over time, the residents become like family. I think that's why I've stayed so long.** Sometimes they will break your heart. Other times they will fill it with joy. But they will all achieve. Just hang in there long enough. You will get hooked.*

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**ALENIA McANULTY-BROWN**

Direct Support Professional - Residential

# ALENIA McANULTY-BROWN

*in her own words*

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We have a nonverbal gentleman here in the home who for the first time in his life has a way to communicate his needs. While he now has an electronic device, the original tool was homemade. It was made of simple cardboard with a series of plastic buttons with different picture options... such as food (I'm hungry); drinks (I'm thirsty); and a bed (I want to go to sleep). Billy learned to identify them by their position on the board. I'll never forget the day we asked him, 'Billy, what do you want?' and he paused for a minute and then hit the button to tell us 'I want food.' With that simple device, we gave somebody a voice who previously didn't have one.

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## words of wisdom:

*“You have to have the heart for this kind of work. You can have all the education and training in the world, but if you don't have the caring, nurturing, loving heart... you don't have what it takes.”*



## about Alenia...

*“I honestly can't say enough about what Alenia has meant to our residential division, especially the individuals she has supported throughout her 30-year career with us. Over that time, she has trained more DSPs and supervisors than we can count, supporting the staff by sharing strategies and techniques on how to work best with each individual and his or her unique needs.*

***Alenia's guiding principle is this: the individual comes first.*** A great example of that is the way she has used technology to facilitate communication with a nonverbal resident, improving not only his quality of life but the overall environment in the home as well.

*Alenia is so much more than a great DSP. She is a great person with a huge heart for all.*

*~ Violet Mwangi  
Director, Residential Services*