

celebrate
FAMILY



DSP WEEK

SEPTEMBER 13-17

WE ARE WORTH IT AWARDS 2021 DSP OF THE YEAR WINNER

Abigail Celesky

UCP Central PA enthusiastically nominates Home and Community Habilitation Specialist Abigail (Abby) Celesky as Direct Support Professional (DSP) of the Year. During a period of great uncertainty over the past year, Abby has consistently demonstrated exceptional leadership, extraordinary, innovative support, and remarkable resilience. She has faced each new challenge with grace and determination, while continuing to be a fierce advocate for every individual she supports.

Abby took the lead in transitioning UCP's in-person activities to Zoom sessions that engaged and encouraged participants. She set up the sessions, prepped activities, and personally delivered all materials needed to each individual's home. Abby was creative and clever in introducing science projects, arts and crafts, online fitness sessions, and virtual field trips (such as San Diego Zoo livestream). She created each session with the individuals' various likes and needs in mind and made sure that all had opportunities to be involved. Families have shared how much their sons and daughters look forward to these sessions and have been amazed at how engaged they are. They marvel at the laughter, and the cries of "Can we do it again?" or "That was so cool!" emanating from the Zoom chats.

Abby's tireless efforts were especially meaningful to one participant who tested positive for COVID. She immediately set up weekly check-ins, grocery shopping trips, window visits, and front porch drop-offs to ensure the individual had everything he needed while in quarantine. Abby quietly dipped into her own resources to ensure his needs were met and that he was appropriately cared for.

On March 17, 2020, the world as we knew it changed... and we at UCP had to change with it. First and foremost, we had to ensure everyone's safety. Abby's engaging approach made switching to the delivery of direct services from behind a computer screen as seamless (and entertaining) as possible. There is great comfort in knowing the individuals we support continue to have a more fulfilled life because Abby is in it. Her thoughtfulness, generosity, and kindness have been blessings for all of us here at UCP, and more importantly, for the people she supports.



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Without Limits