



***Spotlight on Staff***

**LeELLEN PALMERE**

**It's a Family Affair**

For LeEllen Palmere working at Favarrh is a family affair.

That's because LeEllen (pronounced Lee- Ellen) is the sister-in-law of Nicole Palmere, Favarrh's transportation assistant.

LeEllen explained that she's always been interested in working with people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) because of her close relationship with her late Aunt Patty, who had downs syndrome. You can sense the strong bond between LeEllen and her aunt because her voice quivers and her eyes well up when she talks about Aunt Patty, who passed away in October 2017.

While she has long been interested in working with people with IDD, LeEllen said she never had the opportunity until her good friend Nicole, sister of her husband, Brian, referred her to Favarrh.

"Nicole told me it was a great place to work and it's something I always wanted to do," said LeEllen, who was originally from the Plattsburgh area of Upstate New York. Now she lives in Bristol with Brian and their two-year old daughter, Aria, named after a character in the television show, "Pretty Little Liars."

LeEllen joined Favarrh Dec. 5 2016, as a one-to-one direct service professional (DSP) at the Avon Life Enrichment Program, a Favarrh Day program.

"I was nervous at the start but I've come to love it," said LeEllen. "I've come to know all the participants. I know their likes and dislikes and what makes them tick. I just love it!"

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