



FAVARH - THE ARC OF THE FARMINGTON VALLEY

Spotlight on Staff

JULIE KEDDIE

DSP, FAVARH EMPLOYMENT

Julie Keddie has been with Favarh since 2007 as a Direct Support Professional in Favarh's Employment Services, supporting individuals and work crews at a variety of businesses. These days she supports a work crew at MW LifeSciences, formerly known as Economy Spring, in Southington. Julie likes to laugh and finds laughter to be the key to her success in life.

Growing up in an extended Italian family from Massachusetts, Julie shares, "We had sauce every Sunday. I grew up on the best food you could possibly have." As a result, she loves to cook Italian. "My favorite is wedding soup, sauce, and all kinds of veggies."

Julie's accomplishments include flying planes while still in high school, graduating with a liberal arts degree from Fisher College in Boston and marrying the love-of-her-life one week after graduation. She and her husband Richard recently celebrated their 37th wedding anniversary together.

Her first profession was as a graphic and air brush artist with the printing company Quebecor World for whom both she and her husband worked, preparing artwork for the presses from museums and designers around the world.

While living in Massachusetts, Julie and Richard discovered a new passion - raising and showing a rare dog breed from Belgium known as Belgian Tervurens (or "Tervs").

Julie transformed her very first puppy into a champion dog winning numerous obedience titles. Julie and Richard went on to have many

other champions and puppies as well as their own kennel they named *Bon Esprit*. The need for more land for their "hobby" brought them to a new Connecticut home with 15 acres near the Winchester-Colebrook line where she and Richard live with their two Tervs, Faith (13) and Chief Justice (5), and their Standard Poodle, Roland (2).

"We raised litters around the clock," says Julie. "We did it all. From raising to grooming to showing, and I loved it, including traveling every single weekend to shows."

After moving to Connecticut, Julie found work as a kitchen and bathroom designer. "I've always been creative and found a way to work my creative interest into my profession." Eventually she found her way to Favarh through her cousin Patty, a Favarh DSP.

"I just love working with our individuals every day, watching them succeed. Watching them interact with people in the work place and the community," she shares.

What does Julie like most about working at Favarh? "Seeing the smiles. The happiness. Seeing our individuals reach their goals." She also believes one of the most important things in the world is laughter. "I have a sense of humor and I have to make them laugh all the time."

Julie offers this advice to others who aspire to work at Favarh. "Be kind. And patient. And have a sense of humor definitely. And enjoy! That's all you need!"