



Cecelia Douglas-Weir started working as a Direct Support Professional at Favarh in September, 2006. For the last 14 years, she has been a constant positive force in our residential program as a DSP, spreading her joy and positivity among her colleagues and the individuals she supports.

"I've always worked part-time, assisting the residents with their daily needs. I work on Saturdays and when Special Olympic events come around, it has been my responsibility to take them. I also take them into the community to dine out and do personal shopping."

Cecelia finds her work most fulfilling when she sees a smile on the faces of the people she supports as she interacts with them. "I coax a smile by encouraging them to do their best. It could be by praise, playing or engaging them in a conversation regarding the favorite things they like to do." One individual loves old movies, she explains, while the other loves puzzles and sports.

Cecelia faced the greatest obstacle in her life when her son was diagnosed with meningitis at 7 months old and became deaf. But she persisted.

"My strong faith in God and being a very positive person; this allowed me to help my son deal

with his disability not as a setback but as a challenge. I always encourage him to do his best and that he is in control of his own destiny."

Being the mother of three strong, independent and responsible children and two wonderful grandchildren is her greatest accomplishment in life.

Cecelia's family includes her husband Lloyd, her daughters Shana-lee and Charisse, her son Lloyd Jr, her son-in-law, Sherman and her grandchildren Sydney and Sloane.

Cecelia says she's taking life one day at a time. She hopes someday in retirement to do more community work with her church and travel overseas to visit famous historic sites. "And I would love to spend more time with my grandchildren."

Cecelia shares this uplifting message for her friends and colleagues at Favarh. "I would like to encourage all of us to lift each other up. Impart a positive word in someone else's spirit. Smile, for a smile will surely brighten an individual's day."

And Cecelia's favorite saying surely is one to remember and live by...

I am wonderful, highly favored and blessed.