



FAVARH - THE ARC OF THE FARMINGTON VALLEY

Spotlight on Staff

DONNA JANEY

FAVARH DAY SERVICES DSP

Donna Janey is a Favarh Direct Support Professional for our Day Services Program. She is a one-to-one during the day shift at Two Mile Group Home but prior to COVID she worked her day shift at ALEP III. She came to Favarh in 2018 through a temp service and became a fulltime Favarh employee in April, 2019.

Her greatest accomplishment in life is being a mom to her grown daughter and a grandma to four grandchildren. She also has great relationships with her nieces and nephews and is thankful that all her family live close by in the same state. "They come to me for everything."

When asked about the most fulfilling aspect of her work, Donna sites, "Seeing these guys advance, because they are very intelligent. I enjoy watching them excel." She has confidence in their abilities. "I know they can do it. You just have to be patient with them." Seeing their progress makes her feel good.

Her grandson was featured in an issue of Sports Illustrated "Kids of the Month" devoted to kids sports when he was 9 years old and played football for the Middletown Tigers. "I just love watching him play."

Donna was raised by her grandparents. She didn't know her biological father. And she lost her mother when she was just 10 years old.

For her Favarh colleagues, Donna has some simple advice. "They just have to get to know the people they're working with in order to serve them better. Pay attention. See what they like, what they don't like." By paying attention and getting to know them, Donna believes you too can help them to accomplish things others cannot.

Donna shares openly about being a survivor of physical and sexual abuse through incest at the hand of a family member. When asked how she overcame her abuse, she says, "A little counseling. You need someone to talk to you. Because of the abuse, you just don't know if you're coming or going. You learn how to have coping skills and patience." Donna has counseled others who experienced similar abuses. "One day at a time. Kind of like a 12-steps program." Her advice to others; don't let your past rule your life.

After a career in support services with multiple agencies, Donna is happy that Favarh is where she settled.

"I enjoy my job. This isn't just a 9-to-5 for me. They all get my love and care because they deserve it."