



FAVARH - THE ARC OF THE FARMINGTON VALLEY

# Spotlight on Staff

BARRY CROWAL

DSP, EMPLOYMENT SERVICES

Barry Crowal is a DSP for Favarh's Employment Services. He brings a strong sense of care and commitment to his individuals.

Barry came to Favarh in 2017 after working for two other agencies supporting individuals with disabilities. He has had the opportunity to work with several Favarh crews but for most of his time at Favarh, he has supported the individuals working at the Le Grand Wiremold worksite in West Hartford.

He says he is "blessed" to have a steady crew that loves going to work every day. The people at Le Grand Wiremold, in turn, love them too. His four individuals, Alison, Jessica, Heather, and Nicolas, have been with the company a long time. And the company has embraced them, celebrating birthdays and including the crew at company events and functions. "The company is very inclusive and always extends an invitation to the group." Barry also compliments the Le Grand management for making time regularly to stop by and talk to his crew.

Barry enjoys picking up extra hours with Favarh's Transportation and Residential Departments because he says, "I've gotten to know a lot of these guys. I have a rapport with many individuals in the program. I greet them and I try to put a smile on their face. I try not to pass any individual without having a positive interaction with them."

When he's not working at Favarh, he's helping with the family's shipping business, working towards his dentistry diploma, or he's expressing himself at his work as a DJ. "I keep myself busy," he laughs.

Barry was born and raised in Hartford with his

younger brother and his Jamaican-born mother and father. "My mother was a big influence on me. She sacrificed a lot to help me, with my education and staying with the church and putting God first in life. She was strict in wanting what was best for my brother and me." While Barry was growing up, his mom worked hard as a registered nurse and loved her job.

Another big influence was time spent at his dad's Hartford business, a variety store on Albany Avenue, selling groceries, candy, and ice cream. "I helped from the age of eight." The store, with an arcade in the back, was a place of community and neighborhood gathering. These were formative years with many good memories for him.

His family often traveled to Brooklyn on the weekends to visit his grandmother who prepared wonderful Jamaican meals for the family with favorites like sweet potato pudding and pineapple upside-down cake. "I love being around family." He also recalls visiting relatives in Jamaica for an extended period as a youth--growing up, living a simple life in "a place that you never want to leave." All these are formative memories.

The most fulfilling aspect of his work at Favarh is making a difference. "I feel like I'm helping people in the community, making a difference in someone's life." He speaks with admiration for the work ethic of his crew. "They are motivated. They never say 'I don't feel like working today.'"

Barry offers this straightforward advice to his fellow DSP's. "Try to come in with a good attitude. And don't take negative stuff personal. Because individuals can be one way today and then tomorrow be your best friend."