



Spotlight on Staff

KENDRA JONES

ACTUARIAL ASPIRATIONS

Kendra Jones started volunteering with people who have intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) thanks to her history teacher when she was a junior at Bristol Central High School. He also volunteered for Special Olympics and as he spoke enthusiastically about this to his students, Kendra became interested. She started volunteering, helping to set up track & field events.

Working with Special Olympics, she said, she met people with IDD who knew how to “appreciate the little things,” which in turn helped her to realize that she needed to better appreciate all the little things in her own life.

Following high school she obtained her credentials as a Certified Nurses Assistant as well as an Emergency Medical Technician (EMT). She volunteered as an EMT for six months, but then called it quits. The problem, Kendra explained, is that she is a “very sensitive person” and when she went on ambulance calls that resulted in someone crying because they had just lost a loved one, she cried as well.

But then her friend, Veronica Paghense, a Favarh employee at that time, suggested Kendra apply with Favarh. Remembering her positive experience with Special Olympics, Kendra took her friend’s advice. That was three years ago.

Since then, Kendra has worked in Employment Services, coaching the crew that sorts, cleans, and prepares all the clothing donations that make it to the sales floor of the Favarh Thrift Shop.

Her favorite thing about working at Favarh? “I like walking in every morning and they all call out and say, ‘Hi! Good morning!’ They all have smiles on their faces. It’s great,” she said.

Nevertheless, Kendra, a Bristol resident, is a single mother with a five-year old son and an eight-month old daughter and wants to improve conditions for her children. So she has been attending Tunxis Community College in Farmington, part-time. She initially concentrated her studies on accounting, but through her classes she learned that accounting involves interpreting and applying law.

“I’m really strictly a numbers person, so I’ve changed my focus and I’m now concentrating on becoming an actuary,” Kendra explained. “Of course, it’ll likely take me another 10 years to get there.”
(Aug. 1, 2019)