

## Spotlight on Staff Nikki-Lynn Ducibella STARTED CARING AT AGE 11

Nikki-Lynn Ducibella, an assistant manager at the Canton Springs Life Enrichment Program (CLEP), has been providing care for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) since she was 11 -years old! That is when she would go next door to help care for her neighbor, also 11, who had Down Syndrome.

Her neighbor, Johnny, lived with his grandmother . Nikki-Lynn spent so much time helping out that the grandmother asked her to go on vacation with them. So she, Johnny, the grandmother and a few other family members travelled around California from Lake Tahoe, to Sacramento, and onto Sequoia National Park. Afterwards they stopped at Las Vegas, where Nikki-Lynn had her photo taken beneath the famous, "Welcome to Fabulous Las Vegas, Nevada" sign.

Nikki-Lynn's Mom, Dawn Beaudoin, was also a major influence on Nikki-Lynn's career. "She's been in this field as long as I can remember," said Nikki-Lynn. So with her mother's influence, plus her experience with Johnny, it seemed natural for her to begin working in the human services field herself.

Nikki-Lynn has worked in both residential and day programs at several other similar organizations including the Friends of New Milford where she worked in a group home and helped start a day program; KenCrest, a large Pennsylvania-based provider with seven group homes in the Bridgeport area; and the Arc of Southington.

She found Favarh through an ad on Indeed almost two years ago and soon after "fell in love" with the agency.

"With a lot of programs closing, I love it that Favarh keeps growing and doing new things. I love my job and would recommend that anyone work here," she said.

Nikki-Lynn is also taking charge of her career development. She is attending Goodwin Technical College and working on the prerequisites for nursing school. Her goal is to ultimately become a nurse and work for the state Department of Developmental Disabilities (DDS) or for a private contractor like Favarh.

A single Mom, she and her three children, aged one through six, live with her parents in Wolcott.

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