



FAVARH - THE ARC OF THE FARMINGTON VALLEY

Spotlight on Staff

CHANEL WEAVER-BOZEMAN

FAVARH RESIDENTIAL DSP

Chanel Weaver-Bozeman began working for Favarh in July 2018. She's been a residential Direct Support Professional at Middle Road home from the beginning.

Chanel comes to Favarh with practical, lived experience. She is a mom and a grandmother to her own children all of whom she describes as having some kind of challenge to overcome. She's the kind of person who knows how to lift others up and help make miracles happen.

Chanel lives in Hartford with two of her four adult children and her godson who she has raised since the age of 14. Now 31, he has struggled with a dual diagnosis of bi-polar and schizophrenia. "It's been hard, these past few years, keeping him healthy and out of the hospital. I always tell him I won't ever leave him."

She's proud of his accomplishments under her care. "He's working and he's able to do for himself. He is a Peer Professional at a local school. He helps children and likes to be giving back."

Her two daughters are ages 18 and 23. They both grew up with learning challenges. But they have good jobs at Home Goods and Fed-Ex. "I always tell them, regardless of your hardship, it's just a wall that is put up for you to get over. Their lives are filled with purpose and they're successful. They know, there's no perfect person. I tell them no matter what your challenge is, remember, you are special."

Chanel has 8 grandchildren by her two sons (31 & 29) ages 12, 11, 10, 5, 4, 3, and two newborns. She has one grandchild in Virginia born with disabilities who she cares for three times a year.

Ke-Sean is 12, autistic and partially blind and deaf. He also has a heart condition. Chanel and her son have provided his medical needs and operations from age one. The bond they share is truly special.

Before she worked for Favarh, Chanel was wife and mom with her husband of 32 years. Then she found herself in the throes of a divorce. That's when she threw herself into her job. "Working for Favarh kept me going. I looked forward to going to work every day. Working with my individuals eased my mind. It's funny, they were there for me. And my children were there for me too. That made it much easier."

Chanel made it through the divorce and managed to buy a house for her and her children at the same time. "I'm doing much better. Now I have a home I can call my own, and a place for all my children. I can't ask for more in my life."

Before Covid hit, Chanel brought one of her individuals home who didn't have family to be with for Thanksgiving and Christmas. "That made me feel so good."

Her biggest accomplishment in life? "My children." She's proud of all they've done. "And I bought my home. I'm a proud homeowner."

What she likes most about working for Favarh? "Putting a smile on their face." She also enjoys working with her colleagues. "Knowing I made somebody happy and I made a difference." She says her individuals often ask her when she is coming back. "That makes me feel good."

For people who aspire to work for Favarh, Chanel has this advice. "You need to do it from the heart. You got to have passion to work with Favarh individuals. They are passion-first people."