



PRESS RELEASE

Date: November 5, 2019

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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WCBDD honors Direct Support Professionals through premiere Appreciation Dinner

(Lebanon, OH) -- Warren County Board of Developmental Disabilities (WCBDD) recently held their 1st annual Direct Support Professionals (DSP) Appreciation Dinner. Guests were treated to a catered dinner and featured speaker: DSP Development Specialist, Nick Miller of the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD). Recognition awards were then presented to celebrate the exceptional work contributed by DSPs in Warren County.

Direct Support Professionals assist people with developmental disabilities to lead lives that are more independent, enabling them to fully participate in their communities. DSPs may provide supports at home, work, school, church, and other community places. In addition, DSPs act as an advocate for the individual by communicating their needs, self-expression and goals.

Of the 72 DSPs in attendance, 9 were presented with an award by Superintendent, Megan Manuel accompanied by the WCBDD Provider Development team. Award winners included: Irvin Cruz, Jordan Montgomery, Rachel Dickerson, Kelly Stephens, Malissa Dean, Theresa Taulbee, Kazan McKinney, and Mothers & Sons Caregiving. The DSP of the Year was awarded to Corrie Edling, who was praised for her "...natural ways of connecting with others and always giving 110 percent." Each award winner received a commendation from the Ohio House of Representatives, signed by Representative Scott Lipps and Speaker Larry Householder.

Provider Development Coordinators, Katelyn Willoughby and Angela Brinker worked together, alongside Support Service Manager, Melissa Stall in order to ensure the evening's event flowed seamlessly. Willoughby commented, "The goal of tonight was to make providers feel appreciated for all they do." Upon departure, each guest was gifted a cookbook with recipes submitted by a DSP.