



## **PRESS RELEASE**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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### **WCBDD celebrates Direct Support Professional Recognition Week**

(Lebanon, OH) – The Warren County Board of Developmental Disabilities recently celebrated Direct Support Professionals (DSPs) Recognition Week, to honor and acknowledge the many contributions made by DSPs, towards enhancing the lives of individuals with developmental disabilities.

The primary responsibility of DSPs, is to assist people with developmental disabilities in leading lives that are more independent, enabling them to fully participate in their communities. Additionally, DSPs act as advocates for the individuals by communicating their needs, self-expression, and goals.

“Direct Support Professionals are an invaluable part of the Warren County workforce”, said WCBDD Support Services Manager, Melissa Stall. She added, “Especially this year, with COVID-19, they played a critical role in keeping the people we serve, healthy, safe, and active.”

Provider Development Coordinators, Katelyn Willoughby and Angela Brinker worked together, alongside Stall, in an effort to create a fun, but socially distant way to ensure that the DSPs in Warren County, knew they were appreciated. Taking drive-by birthday party parades as their inspiration, the team coordinated a drive-by DSP Recognition Parade.

The parade, consisting mostly of WCBDD staff, boasted decorated vehicles, supportive signs, and honking horns, proceeding down the streets of Lebanon. Included in the parade route were the following DSP businesses: Helping Hands for Others, Residential Community Care, Production Services Unlimited Inc., COI Connected, Highest Expectations, Coffee Caravan, Mothers & Sons, and Residential Group Homes Inc.

In addition to the parade, a 12 minute video montage of enrolled individuals and staff thanking DSPs was created and shared. Stall concluded, “We hope the DSPs and individuals who participated had as much fun as we did.”