



PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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WCBDD hosts “drive-in” DSP Appreciation Event

(Lebanon, OH) – The Warren County Board of Developmental Disabilities (WCBDD) recently hosted their 2nd Annual Direct Support Professionals (DSPs) Appreciation Event, to honor the many contributions made by DSPs toward enhancing the lives of individuals with developmental disabilities. The event, conducted similar to a “drive-in” movie, included a packaged dinner provided by Shoelaces Catering, and an awards ceremony. DSPs remained in their parked vehicles, as dinners were delivered directly to their window by WCBDD staff members.

WCBDD Superintendent, Megan Manuel opened the ceremony, emphasizing the important role the county board and provider partnership plays in supporting the lives of people with developmental disabilities. Following Manuel’s welcome, was CEO of Mothers and Sons Caregiving, and recipient of 2019’s “Employer of the Year”, Gayle Benton, who elaborated on the numerous responsibilities of a DSP.

Nine DSPs were awarded for providing outstanding services. Award winners included: *Employer of the Year*: Residential Group Homes Inc., *Creativity Award*: Tangie Robertson, *Above and Beyond*: Loveness Nderbele, *Working Supervisor*: Jessica Webster, *Hero of the Year*: Danette Shimer, *Meaningful Mentor*: Jeff Rodgers, *All-Star Advocate*: Chris Benton, *Rock Star Rookie*: Kathy Morgan, and *DSP of the Year*: Hillary Hobbs.

Presenting the awards were WCBDD Provider Development Coordinators, Angela Brinker and Katelyn Willoughby. Both ladies, alongside Support Service Manager, Melissa Stall, are responsible for the planning and execution of this annual event. Willoughby commented, “Our Annual DSP Appreciation Event is a great opportunity for us to show providers how much we appreciate the work they do each and every day.” As an additional token of appreciation, each DSP went home with a customized sweatshirt commemorating the evening’s event with a simple, but powerful reminder, “We are stronger together”.