

♥ DSP RECOGNITION WEEK 2026 ♥

Celebrating CHI's Direct Support Professionals of the Year

September 13–19, 2026

Each September, CHI joins organizations across the country in celebrating Direct Support Professional Recognition Week. This year's celebration honors the dedicated and innovative professionals who are at the heart of supporting people with disabilities. ANCOR describes this as an opportunity to recognize the incredible—and often unsung—work DSPs do every day.

At CHI, our Direct Support Professionals bring our mission to life. They provide essential support, encourage independence, create opportunities for meaningful community involvement, and help the people we serve build lives filled with choice, connection, and belonging. Their work requires compassion, patience, flexibility, creativity, and the willingness to show up each day for others.

As part of this year's celebration, each CHI program has selected a DSP of the Year—someone whose work reflects the very best of CHI. These individuals were nominated for the difference they make in the lives of the people they support, the encouragement they offer their coworkers, and the care and commitment they bring to their program.

Sarah Langlois

Chapman House and Dar's Place



During her more than four years with CHI, Sarah has become a trusted leader, dependable teammate, and favorite among the people she supports. As Assistant Manager, she willingly answers questions, helps on the floor, addresses concerns before they grow, and ensures plans and protocols are followed. Sarah frequently adjusts her schedule or picks up extra shifts to keep the programs covered—often without being asked. Her initiative, flexibility, and genuine dedication make Chapman and Dar's proud to recognize Sarah as their DSP of the Year!

Chris Kuvaas

Lehigh House and Powell Place



Chris never hesitates to step in and support both the people she serves and her teammates. She willingly rearranges her schedule, fills open shifts, and helps with outings, overnight trips, appointments, and shopping—all without complaint. Chris is respectful and patient while also knowing when to joke around and share some silliness. Her warmth and genuine care have helped her build wonderful relationships at Leigh and Powell, as well as with people from other CHI programs. We are proud to recognize Chris as their DSP of the Year!

Heather Sargent

Day Support Activities



Heather is a compassionate, dependable, and creative DSP who is deeply committed to helping the people she supports live meaningful and fulfilling lives. She takes time to listen, understand what matters to each person, and build relationships grounded in dignity, patience, and trust. Heather creatively turns individual interests into experiences that bring joy, confidence, and belonging while encouraging independence, choice, and community connection. Her professionalism, person-centered approach, and genuine care make DSA proud to recognize Heather as its DSP of the Year!

Lani Taylor

Mitchell Place



Lani is a calm, patient, and compassionate DSP who sees possibility in every person she supports. She listens beyond words, finds creative solutions during difficult moments, protects individual rights, and encourages people to learn, grow, and advocate for themselves. In one especially meaningful moment, Lani patiently helped a resident learn to write, “I love you, Mom”—giving her a new way to express her love and showing her that someone believed in what she could accomplish. Lani doesn't simply ask how she can help someone through the day; she asks how she can make that person's life better. We are proud to recognize Lani as the Mitchell DSP of the Year!

Sarah Husko

Goode House & Nancy's Place



Although Sarah has been with CHI for less than a year, she has already made a significant impact. She is dependable, flexible, and always willing to adjust her schedule when coverage is needed. Sarah brings warmth and positivity to every shift, follows agency protocols carefully, and treats individuals, coworkers, families, and community partners with respect. She also creates fun and meaningful activities at home when community outings are not possible, promoting choice, connection, and joy. Sarah's dedication, teamwork, and commitment to person-centered support make Nancy's and Goode proud to recognize her as their DSP of the Year!

Kayley Sullivan

Sander House and Scheler House



Kayley is a dedicated and thoughtful DSP who goes beyond meeting health and safety needs to create new, meaningful experiences for the people she supports. She faces challenges with determination, communicates closely with her teammates, and brings forward solutions and ideas for improvement. After setting a goal to strengthen her documentation, Kayley worked until her writing became a model for training new staff. When residents who love animals needed an accessible farm experience, she called farms throughout the area until she found one that could accommodate wheelchairs. Her persistence, creativity, and wholehearted commitment make Sander and Scheler proud to recognize Kayley as their DSP of the Year!

WITH GRATITUDE

Celebrating Every CHI DSP

Every one of our program honorees represents the heart of direct support. From this remarkable group, we will select one person as the CHI DSP of the Year and honor them at the annual Community Provider Association of Oregon Retreat.

While only one person will receive CHI's top recognition, each of our program honorees—and every DSP throughout CHI—deserves to be celebrated. They are encouragers, problem-solvers, advocates, teachers, teammates, and trusted companions. They help make everyday moments meaningful and new possibilities reachable.

During DSP Recognition Week, we proudly celebrate the extraordinary people who are the heartbeat of CHI! Our DSPs turn challenges into possibilities, ordinary days into meaningful experiences, and individual goals into real accomplishments. They advocate, encourage, teach, problem-solve, laugh, listen, and stand beside the people we support through every triumph and every difficult moment.

To our incredible DSPs: you make independence possible, strengthen community connections, and enrich lives. CHI simply could not be CHI without you.

This is your week—let's celebrate you!