

SUMMER 2025 NEWSLETTER



EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR

As a Direct Support Professional, Kacey consistently goes above and beyond in her role. She brings compassion, patience, and a strong work ethic to her work each day, always striving to improve the lives of the individuals she supports.

Kacey began working for us in 2004, and over the past two decades she has earned the trust and respect of those around her by treating every person with dignity and empathy. She promotes independence while providing the support needed, making a lasting impact through her genuine care and dedication.

Beyond her direct work, Kacey is a dependable and valued team member—always ready to lend a hand wherever it's needed. Her reliability, collaborative spirit, and positive attitude are appreciated by all who work with her.

Kacey's ability to build meaningful relationships and her unwavering commitment to our mission make her truly deserving of this recognition.

CONGRATULATIONS, KACEY!

THANK YOU FOR ALL THAT YOU DO!



Apply Today

Are you or someone you know looking for a career that truly makes a difference? Are you caring, compassionate and love to help others achieve their goals? Join our team of dedicated professionals...become a Direct Support Professional Today!

HAVE YOU SEEN WHAT'S TO SEE AT FLYING SHUTTLES

In a historic, beautiful brick building located at 390 Pine St. in Pawtucket is the most wonderful and productive art and weaving studio. Under the incredible leadership of Lisa Brien and staff, Kathy Ryan, a team of amazing artists works hard at their craft. Here at the studio, you can find local artists weaving rugs using traditional looms, painting in all forms, cross-stitching, sketching, and so much more. Flying Shuttles is more than an art studio; it is also a place to meet the artists and explore our current offerings. We love to interact with our community, so we invite you to stop in, say hello, and do some shopping. The holidays are right around the corner! Flying Shuttles is open to the public Monday through Friday from 9 am to 3 pm. Just park in the back of the building and follow the signs once you are in the building.



Also, starting September 18th, we will be bringing back our popular Poetry Nights! We invite poets and lovers of poetry to come and listen to some spoken word from 6-8pm. We offer light refreshments and a diverse collection of art pieces created by our artists at Flying Shuttles, available at a 10% discount. Emceed by Sadey Fournier, it is guaranteed to be a fun time! Dates and times for the fall will be posted soon. Please bring some friends and join us!

Check out our Flying Shuttles [online marketplace](#)





Make an impact and
donate today!



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CELEBRATING DSP RECOGNITION WEEK

There's no question that Direct Support Professionals (DSPs) are the backbone of our programs and services. Without their dedication, compassion, and daily commitment, we simply could not fulfill our mission.

Each year, the second week of September honors Direct Support Professionals with National DSP Recognition Week—a time to celebrate the amazing work of DSPs nationwide and right here in Rhode Island. These professionals:

- Provide essential, publicly funded long-term support to individuals with disabilities
- Build trusted, personal relationships while assisting with daily and often intimate needs
- Help individuals stay connected to their families and communities
- Enable people with disabilities to live meaningful, independent lives
- Play a vital role in addressing a growing national workforce shortage

At The Arc of Blackstone Valley, we know one week isn't enough to thank our DSPs for the selfless work they do 365 days a year. They are the heart of our organization, supporting individuals and families with care, dignity, and respect.

To celebrate this year, we hosted a full day of appreciation activities, including a car wash staffed by management and admin teams, raffle prizes, delicious food from the Friskie Fries catering truck, and a visit from everyone's favorite summer treat—the ice cream truck!

We are deeply grateful for our DSPs and proud to recognize their extraordinary contributions.



Direct Support Professional
RECOGNITION WEEK
September 7 - 13, 2025
RELIAS ANCOR

Patience, Perseverance, and Purpose: Tod and Joe's Inspiring Paths to Employment



Tod's passion for cleanliness began in childhood, inspired by his mother. Now, through The Arc of Blackstone Valley's Employment Program and WorkAbility, he's found the perfect fit as a dishwasher at Bryant University's Salmanson Dining Hall. Despite setbacks—including a long employment gap and delayed job offers—Tod remained resilient. His advice to others: *"Be patient, and the phone will ring."*

Joe's drive to fight hunger led him to the food service industry. Starting at The Arc's former Café at the Square, he now works as a Food Service Utility Worker with Chartwells at a local high school. From organizing stock to driving the Zamboni-like ride-on scrubber, Joe's enthusiasm shines. His proudest moment? Being named Employee of the Month in his first year.

Both stories highlight the power of inclusive employment and the impact of perseverance.

October is National Disability Employment Awareness Month, a time to recognize the vital contributions of workers with disabilities and to promote inclusive hiring practices. It's an opportunity for organizations to celebrate diversity and reaffirm their commitment to creating accessible workplaces for all.