



## **2018 DSP Recognition Nomination Form**

Name of DSP to be nominated: **Aubri Willison**

DSP Nominee's Job Title: Direct Support Provider, Residential Support Services

Aubri is an outstanding staff in the residential program at Foothills Gateway. She currently works as a part-time Direct Support Professional in an enhanced setting where she provides care to individuals with complex behavioral and communication support needs. Aubri is attentive to the needs of the people in services and has developed strong bonds with many of them. She engages the individuals in fun in-home and community activities, and takes pictures of memorable moments so we can share them with family members. Aubri demonstrates determination and charisma in everything that she does, and works to improve the residential program by communicating ideas to her team members. Aubri is attentive to the needs of the people in services, and works to assure individuals that their voices are heard. She demonstrates positivity and compassion in everything she does. Aubri is truly dedicated to her job and manages difficult situations with grace. There have been many situations where Aubri has gone above and beyond to improve the lives of the people she supports. One of the individuals that Aubri supports needs extra assistance with accessing the community. Aubri supports this person to stay engaged in activities, provides choices, follows through and takes initiative to work through conflicts in a person-centered way.

Aubri excels at incorporating person-centeredness into all that she does. Although she has been involved in many intense behavioral situations, she never takes it personally and always bounces back after supporting individuals through a difficult time. Aubri is skilled at helping individuals move on after having a difficult time by getting them excited about having a good day.

Aubri makes it a priority to understand individuals in the residential program, and helps them to think about their future dreams and how to move towards them. She supports individuals to grow richer relationships and emphasizes the importance of making connections with other members of the community. The work that Aubri has done with the individuals in services at Foothills Gateway has enhanced their quality of life in regards to their relationships and community connections, their health and personal care, and overall well-being.

We can count on Aubri to be professional in her interactions with the individuals in services, coworkers, family members and community members. Aubri is known for her positive energy. She has an upbeat and happy personality and is an absolute joy with whom to work. We recognize that Aubri hasn't created a new service or created something unique. However, we want to recognize her for being so eager to join our team and for her consistent positive energy, the relationships she has established, her consistent person-centered approaches and her ongoing commitment to a program that encourages community connections, regardless of level of difficulty. We appreciate Aubri's hard work and diligence, and we are so pleased to have the opportunity to nominate her for this outstanding award.



Name of DSP to be nominated: **David Hawkins**

DSP's Job Title: Behavior Line Staff, Cross Systems Crisis Response Pilot Team

David is originally from Ohio where he worked as a Direct Support Professional (DSP) providing residential and respite services to individuals with IDD. After graduating with a bachelor's degree in Physics from Bowling Green State University, David decided to move to Colorado to live with a friend from high school. David's career plan at that time was to become a Physics Teacher. However, along the way, he took a different path and applied for a job at Foothills Gateway as a Direct Support Professional to work with individuals with IDD!

When David started his career at Foothills Gateway 2.5 years ago, he worked as an Activity Coordinator (DSP) for the Intensive Support Program. David supported individuals that required extensive support and assistance to engage in activities of daily living. David enjoyed his job so much that he decided he wanted to get to know other individuals receiving services and their programs, so he took a DSP position that allowed him to work wherever he was needed. David's new position at that time required a great deal of flexibility and willingness to change plans or ideas at a moment's notice while remaining enthusiastic about his assignment for the day. In August of 2016, David expanded his job duties and became a Behavior Line Staff (BLS)/DSP for the Cross Systems Crisis Response Pilot. David is now a member of a team of BLS/DSPs who provide support to individuals with co-occurring diagnoses who are also in crisis. David works very closely with SummitStone Health Partners (Behavioral Health organization in Larimer County) staff at the Community Crisis Center and Crisis Stabilization Unit as well as clinical and medical staff at the hospital emergency rooms. David provides support to the clinical and medical staff and demonstrates person centered approaches with each of the individuals receiving services. Clinical staff have communicated to David's supervisor that he does an amazing job in supporting individuals with IDD who are in crisis. David willingly works to provide useful information about all of the individuals with whom he interacts throughout the day. David is very excited to be part of the Cross System Crisis Response Pilot and provide the in-depth and proactive support that is needed to support individuals with IDD who are having acute crises, in addition to providing the longer term person centered supports that help individuals with co-occurring diagnoses stabilize over time.

David's ability to remain patient, upbeat, and kind after being on the job for many hours is nothing short of amazing. He is truly wonderful at his job and his work and attitude are much appreciated by all. One word that describes David is availability. David demonstrates this quality by making his own needs secondary to the wishes and needs of individuals with IDD. David is a valuable member of the Foothills Gateway, Inc. team!