



Tuesday, April 28, 2020: This week's THANKFUL ACTS OF KINDNESS was awarded to the 74 Direct Support Professionals (DSP) at [Clear Skies Ahead, LLC](#), who continue to go into homes every day and assist individuals with disabilities by providing companionship, encouragement and the essentials of healthy living.

As a token of our appreciation, the staff received Avon Skin So Soft replenishing hand creams and shower gels, discounted 50% of the regular price by Avon representative Georgann Learn and mineral bath salts purchased from [Ritual Earth](#) "Four Sisters" company here in Trumbull County. We can't think of a more deserving group of individuals.

The DSP's were nominated by Catherine Brooks, C.E.O. of Clear Skies Ahead, LLC.

"Direct Support Professionals (DSP) provide direct services to people with developmental disabilities. This often involves hands on care including feeding and bathing. DSPs do not have the option of maintaining social distancing when providing this care, and many of the people they are assisting do not understand this concept. Just like the medical professionals we have not been able to obtain the appropriate, or enough, PPE. Yet our DSP continue to come to work every day to provide this much needed support. Our DSPs have stepped up and continue to put themselves at risk to make sure that people with disabilities still get the supports they would suffer without. Not only are the DSP doing everything they can to make sure everyone can stay as safe as possible, they are working extra hard to come up with creative ideas to keep people busy and content at home. I continue to be awed by this amazing group of people."

When asked what motivates them to do the work they do, Jennifer Petrosky (Supervisor and Direct Support Professional) – "The people we support are the most important group of people I have yet to meet. They are genuine, appreciative, and loving. They want what we want. To lead a normal life. They want to do what they want, be with who they want, and have a good time. I believe in what we do and so does all of the staff".

From United Way of Trumbull County and our community, THANK YOU for all you do!

Other Clear Skies personnel were more than willing to share their thoughts. See their comments below and STAY TUNED FOR ANOTHER OPPORTUNITY TOMORROW!

- Teresa, our Benefit and Medical Coordinator, said "I am so proud of our DSPs. They have stepped up to the challenge in keeping our clients safe at home. They have shown great leadership in leading our clients thru this crisis without fear, while I am sure they have been fearful themselves! They are showing us great teamwork to collectively care for not only clients, but also coworkers. They are following guidelines while adapting to new instructions and guidelines on a daily basis."
- Jennifer, Senior Supervisor, "Our staff have put their professional lives before other responsibilities by staying longer hours and giving up time with their families. Staff have been willing to work outside of their availability just to help make sure people's needs are covered. They have had to be the calm in the storm for our people who struggle with anxiety about the world around them. That might seem like a normal every day job requirement but with everyone's worry being so amplified during this crisis I think they have done a great job at being positive and presenting people with a reason to smile rather than a reason to worry. Staff have openly communicated any symptoms to help keep everyone safe. They have been hyper aware of how they are feeling rather than pushing through and just going to work not feeling 100%."
- Mike, Senior Supervisor, "DSP are coming to work each day with a positive attitude and a smile on their face. They have been amazing at motivating people to overcome any of the day to day challenges that we are all facing with this crisis. DSP have stepped up to provide the best care for individuals even with all the challenges they are facing."