Good afternoon everyone! I have the pleasure of announcing that our very own Ursula Mbene, our Day Program Coordinator in Cañon City, has been selected as a finalist for Alliance Colorado’s DSP Professional of the Year for 2021! Each year, Alliance requests nominations of Direct Support Professionals that show the true heart of the work we do in the IDD system. They want to recognize and honor their efforts, spotlight their hard work, and acknowledge their dedication to the individuals and families that we serve. Ursula has been chosen as a finalist and could potentially win the DSP of the Year award at the Alliance Colorado IDD Awareness day at the State Capitol on March 25th!

I have so many great stories of watching Ursula work with individuals in our programs and connect with them in ways that really impact them and enhance their lives. On top of that, Ursula fosters a supportive work environment where her staff learn and grow together and mimic the compassion that she shows to others. She has been incredibly flexible in her work throughout the pandemic, first offering to work in the homes while the day program site was closed, then learning computer programs that once were very unfamiliar to her so that she could start Zoom classes! Her dedication and flexibility allowed us to continue with Zoom classes when we could not meet in person and her familiar face was a symbol of “normalcy” and comfort for many of our clients and families during a very uncertain time. Also attached to this email is the nomination that Mary Yang and Ron Hinkle submitted to Alliance Colorado for consideration of Ursula for this award. It highlights Ursula’s positive approach to challenging situations and how she adjusted during the COVID-19 pandemic and continues to do so.

We have always appreciated and admired Ursula’s incredible work and dedication to the individuals we serve and are so excited that our State legislators, professional colleagues, and families across the state of Colorado will also now know of her accomplishments.

If you would like to “attend” the ceremony to hear who the chosen DSP of the year is out of the finalists, there will be a zoom ceremony that is open for all to attend. You will need to click on this link https://www.alliancecolorado.org/iddawarenessday and RSVP by the 23rd of March. The luncheon will be around 12:30 – 12:45 for the announcement. This is also a great opportunity to show your support for IDD programs and funding as various Colorado State Senators and Representatives will be in attendance and are currently discussing how the State’s budget is impacting our services. Let them know we support them and need them to hear our voices!

Congratulation Ursula, this is a well-deserved recognition and I’m proud to work beside you!

Thanks,

Bryana Marsicano

Chief Executive Officer

Starpoint

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