



Some call it a crisis. The national workforce shortage of direct care professionals has been building for decades, with no signs of slowing. Many reasons have been identified for the shortage, from low wages in a high stress job, to insufficient training and inadequate recognition for those doing the work. Read more at the NADSP (National Alliance for Direct Support Specialists) website and in the President’s Committee for People with Intellectual Disabilities (PCPID) report.

For **Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month** in March, Chester County is highlighting the workforce shortage by asking individuals and families to write in to recognize the direct support professionals who have made their lives better, have developed personal relationships, and have gone above and beyond the call of duty. Please see page 2 for information on how to share your story with us!

Stories will be selected to be shared in the monthly newsletter in the coming months. If your story is selected, we will contact you via email before publication.

Tell us about the
Direct Support Professionals
who have made a difference!

A direct support professional works directly with individuals and may include staff at a residential facility, a day program, in-home support, job coaches or someone who provides transportation, among other roles.

Do you know someone who has gone beyond the call of duty to teach life skills, bridge communication gaps, implement wellness routines, encourage personal goals, inspire, listen, cheer and support? Email us about it in less than 100 words and include:

1. The person's name and agency.
2. How long have you worked with them.
3. What kind of support do they provide?
4. What makes this person so good at his/her job?

Email your story to **tbehringer@chesco.org** by Friday, March 6.



Chester County Mental Health/Intellectual & Developmental Disabilities
www.chesco.org/mhidd