



EMPLOYEE OF THE QUARTER

2nd Quarter 2009

Samantha Sullivan

Residential Services Instructor



Sam has made the dreams of one of our residents happen by taking him to buy a new TV. But she didn't just walk into Wal-Mart and purchase it for him. She took him to a pawn shop and helped him to find a TV that he liked and it cost him a lot less money. Sam is very conscientious when it comes to saving the residents' money. She searches out prices for the things that they need and is careful to try to save them as much as possible.

Another resident wants to be understood better and Sam offered to work with him, teaching him sign language.

Sam also takes a personal interest in another resident's turtle. She looked up how to care for him and has spoken to people at the pet store to be sure that we are caring for him correctly. Sam has set up a small area so that he has room to roam around a little bit.

Sam worked diligently when it came time to move three of our resident's bedrooms. She assisted in moving boxes and boxes of belongings to new bedrooms, sorted them out and set up the new rooms in an attractive way. She went online with a resident and let him choose new posters for his room, framed them and hung them. He loves his new room!

She also is very conscious of the environment. Sam reminds us all of the time to re-use whatever we can.

She bought the residents plastic containers to use for their sandwiches, so that we don't have to throw away so many plastic sandwich bags.

Sam is very flexible whenever we need someone to cover hours. She always offers to come in early or to stay late and flexes her hours so that we don't run up overtime. Also, Sam has worked hard to build a close relationship with a particularly picky eater. She is now able to get him to try almost anything! And, he has learned to like different foods.

Sam heard about another resident having a difficult time reaching out to a family member. They had been estranged for many years. Sam found the resident's sister's address and phone number and got them connected by phone. The resident reported that talking to her sister on the phone had made her want to cry.

Sam spends a lot of time with our residents and knows them very well. One of our residents likes to share about his parents, family friends and teachers from his childhood. He enjoys reminiscing with staff about the things that happened in his everyday life. Sam took this information and wrote a story using this residents' name as the main character and all of the people in his life as the supporting characters. She used the situations that he tells us about to create the storyline. Then, with the help of her friend, she taped the story using different voices for the different characters. It is absolutely amazing! This resident thoroughly enjoys listening to his life's stories as they come alive!

Recently, two of our fulltime staff have been out on medical leave for an extended period of time and Sam has held everything together at Oakwood. She has worked diligently to keep our residents' lives as stable as possible while there have been substitutes working. She has helped the subs to learn our routine, which helped them to be more comfortable in an unfamiliar environment and that helped our residents feel more comfortable as well.

Sam works very hard from the time she comes in until she leaves for the day. She goes from person to person, assisting with a bath, guiding to learn (or re-learn) a task, answering questions and overall, helping to ensure that Oakwood runs smoothly and that everyone's needs are met. And, although this is her job description, Samantha Sullivan always strives to go a step further, helping our residents reach just a little higher. Congratulations Samantha!