



Connections

NEWSLETTER • FALL 2024

Lake Swim Signals Growing Confidence

Direct Support Staff Make a Difference

On the 25th anniversary of the Yap family vacation to a remote island in Michigan, Maurine Yap swam across the cold, deep lake with her mom. This achievement has long been out of reach for Maurine, but something changed this year that made it possible.

"One year ago, the amazing Shauna Miller came into our daughter's life," said mom Anne Yap. "Shauna has a magic touch finding ways to motivate Maurine. She works with Maurine to set engaging goals, including in swimming. **We saw firsthand how Maurine has blossomed with Shauna's help on our annual summer family vacation.**"

Shauna is Maurine's direct support professional from Jubilee. She and Maurine swim three times a week at the pool to build the confidence and stamina needed for the lake swim. Maurine's progress on her life goals is shared with the Yap family, which sets their minds at ease as she grows in confidence living on her own.

Shauna is a member of Jubilee's 350+ strong direct support workforce. Our team of highly trained professionals works days, nights, weekends, and holidays to help the people they support successfully live independently and achieve their life goals.

"The strong connections forged between our staff, the people we support, and their families is what makes Jubilee such a special place," said Gia Richmond, Director of Program Services.



Maurine (left) and her Jubilee support staff Shauna set a new goal to swim 100 lengths in the pool.

"Jubilee is a positive place filled with joy," Gia Richmond, Director of Program Services (right).



Jubilee's dedicated program services team ensures high-quality care with a ratio of 12 people Jubilee supports to each program manager.

As Jubilee grows to support more people, our program services team is careful to retain the warmth and closeness that is a Jubilee hallmark.

Linda Glantz says that's true for her son Ben, who "considers his support staff Elmer Billedo and Garner McClean to be part of his extended family. Ben's success in residing in his own apartment is a remarkable achievement. The professional expertise that Ben's support staff provide help Ben have independence and autonomy." ●

Gia Richmond joined Jubilee in April 2024 and leads our team into a future of greater inclusion and innovation in residential services.

IN THEIR OWN WORDS

Reflections on Support Staff's Impact

"There is nothing more important to parents than knowing their son or daughter's support staff is dedicated, caring, and a strong advocate for the client in the community. Lamin Yilla is all those things, which gives us great peace of mind. Thank you, Lamin!" — *Ricki Sabia, mother of Steve Sabia, pictured (top photo, left) with Lamin in his apartment building's game room.*

"Thank you to our staff who look out for me and make me happy." — *Mary Jo Wybierala (right) lives independently with support from Jessica Giroux.*

"I have been entrusted with a new leadership position in the home where I work as lead support staff. I continue to learn and be more efficient and effective in my sacred work with the people we support." — *Sylvia Agharaiha, Service Team Lead (center) with Debbie Lim and Sarah McGhee at their home in Potomac.*

"We work with the people we support to help them make their own decisions, we don't make choices for them. We make sure every person on our team and that we support is treated with ultimate respect and dignity." — *Nana Anane, Program Manager (second from right) at Jubilee's employee recognition celebration.*



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Your donation makes a difference at Jubilee!

Become a monthly donor—any amount helps.

Your monthly gift to Jubilee helps adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities live full, independent lives.

Your generosity helps make it possible for people we support to take a college class, go on a dream vacation, and move into their very own apartment.

Use the QR code or visit jubileemd.org to donate. ●



Melissa Cory adds attending art classes at Montgomery College to her list of accomplishments at Jubilee.

