



*Seeking Employment, Equality and Community for  
People with Developmental Disabilities*

SEEC E-News

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### **Introducing Heather Adams Program Director, Supported Living**

Heather comes to SEEC with experience as a Program Director in diverse capacities. She has lead teams in Child Welfare in Boston, Massachusetts; in California serving Adults with Disabilities; and has planted her roots in Maryland after traveling around the country launching new Regional Resource Centers for low-income communities. Heather has a Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice from Johnson & Wales University and a Master's Degree of Education in Psychology from Cambridge College. Heather's "Why" is to guide people to their truths, so that by loving and living their highest selves, they can guide others to do the same. Developing teams and leadership is her passion, and she is excited to be a part of the impact SEEC is having in our communities and lives. When Heather is not working, she can be found hiking the trails with her dogs, reading on the beach or expressing her creativity through painting and writing.

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### **Direct Support Professionals Are Making a Difference**

*by Anna Sattler, Project Specialist, Communications and Knowledge Management*

The DSPs Making a Difference committee is excited to announce its newest winners. With COVID-19 the committee's process went on hold temporarily, but after making adjustments to the new normal, we are ready to highlight the past four month's winners! We also recognize that COVID-19 has shown us that all of our DSPs are every day heroes, and received many more nominations than we could make winners. Thank you to all SEEC staff who have worked so hard during these difficult times!



**Wennseguale Tengande**, Supported Living (January): Facilitation of Services  
The committee greatly appreciates nominations from family members, and that is exactly how the committee found out about the outstanding supports Wenn was providing. The person Wenn supports has a roommate, and when the roommate went on leave for three weeks, Wenn stepped into cover the roommate's shift, in addition to working his daily regular schedule. As changes to staffing can sometimes be difficult, Wenn ensured that there was consistency in daily activities, resulting in an overall smooth transition. The family was so impressed by Wenn's dedication, initiative and attention to detail to the person receiving support, they reported an increase in maturity, confidence and self-care. Thank you, Wenn!



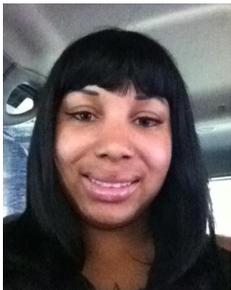
**Monica Aisenberg**, Project Search (February): Vocational, Educational and Career Support.

Monica is being honored because of her tireless desire to assist someone she supports at his worksite. She ensured he not only maintained his job when he was at risk of potentially losing it, but also helped him develop a professional development plan for growth to meet his employment goal of becoming an administrative assistant. She did this by working with his supervisor to outline steps that could be taken to increase proficiency with current tasks and learn new ones. She also built his on-site natural supports by creating and hosting (with the individual supported) a disability awareness training with staff that work directly with him and identified specific co-workers that could act as natural supports for him moving forward. Monica even went above and beyond and worked with this individual to gain the confidence to take on heading his own "Team Morale" committee to increase positive staff interactions at his worksite. With her encouragement, he also writes a monthly staff newsletter for his department on a variety of topics of staff interest. Thank you, Monica!



**Silvia Villadeleon**, Community Engagement (March): Participant Empowerment

Silvia was nominated for her outstanding initiative in developing strategies that engaged the people she supports to learn a multitude of new skills. A few examples include: Teaching a person receiving support how to use his phone and be familiar with the numbers stored in the phone. This lesson helped the person be safe, and when Metro Access dropped him at the wrong location, he was able to call his parents to let them know what happened, as Silvia was on the phone with Metro Access. Silvia is also teaching ASL and Spanish languages, in addition to reading traffic signs and interviewing skills. With COVID-19 she has also excelled in providing virtual supports and embraced technology and new lessons. Thank you, Silvia!



**Takaya Terry**, Discoveries (April): Facilitation of Services

Since transitions made as a result of COVID-19, Takaya has displayed intense professionalism in the face of the crisis. She has been incredibly flexible, working to support both of the people she supports virtually and in-person, when the situations changed and demanded differently of her. She pitched making pizzas together, which then led them into having a weekly recurring food-making event. Additionally, her documentation in the Penelope database have been consistent, and in line with each person's outcomes and goals. Lastly, SEEC was contacted twice in the month of April by a parent, simply to tell us how wonderful she is, and how great she is with his daughter. Thank you, Takaya!



## Baking For Mother's Day at Suburban Hospital

*by Pam Toole, Lead Employer Outreach Consultant*

At SEEC, you might know we're into helping people. During this time, we're also helping people help other people! When we heard in early May about a local resident, Kim McGettigan, seeking donations of baked goods to support Suburban Hospital staff, we decided that it would be great for people to contribute in this way. We started small and easy to test the waters. Our staff delivered the baking supplies to each baker's house, and through our virtual lesson series, people we support made no-bake Rice Krispie treats under the guidance of Abby Taylor and Joseph Postow during the Tasty Tuesday Hangout series. Those treats were then delivered to emergency room staff at Suburban Hospital in Bethesda. Round One Success! We then learned that the same local resident was organizing a big drive for a Mother's Day collection, so we jumped into Round Two. Our Tasty Tuesday team organized the baking of cake pop balls which resulted in a bounty of baked goods for Suburban Hospital staff working on Mother's Day. By connecting the people we support to the front lines, we are continuing our mission of Employment, Equality and Community for people with developmental disabilities, and together, making good works like these happen for all!



## Virtual Mock Interviews

by Pam Toole, Lead Employer Outreach Consultant

Just like so many nimble organizations who have pivoted to new ways of doing things, SEEC job seekers readily adapted to virtual mock interviews recently with many of our community volunteers as interviewers. Our job seekers were not only tech savvy in their ability to guide others through the platforms, but were, according to one volunteer, better prepared than some candidates they have interviewed! A big thank you to our volunteers for their generosity of time and experience helping to prepare our job seekers for professional interviews! Our volunteers help us to engage with the community, grow awareness and solve unmet business needs. Are you interested in learning more about inclusive hiring and experiencing just who our job seekers are? Check out SEEC's volunteer page to find out more: [Click here](#).

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301.576.9000 | [www.seeonline.org](http://www.seeonline.org)

