# **SHADOWFACTS**

## The Shadowfax Corporation

October 2024

## Inspiring valued social roles for all people.

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# **Employee of the Month**



Congratulations, Trasie Cate on being selected as October's Employee of the Month! Before joining Shadowfax, she worked with special needs children. Trasie is also a proud mother of a son with autism. In her free time, she enjoys volunteering and raising funds for children with cancer, riding motorcycles, being active in her church, and reading.

Congratulations, Trasie!





Zhane Soyke DSP @ Pattison



Darline Cabrera-Almanzar DSP FT @ 44



Halley Weaver Res Supervisor @ 870



Ryan Presti DSP A/O @ 22



Elisha Washington DSP-PRN @ 40



Katherine Borne Associate Director



Joana Laboy
Res Supervisor @ 880



Kenneth Barton Res A/O @ 20



Nicolle Ort DSP FT @ Pattison



Nicolle Wagner DSP-FT @62



Dustin Chase
DSP-FT @ Pattison

# Shadowfax Professional Development Career Ladder for DSPs and Frontline Supervisors

NADSP

Making a world of difference in people's lives

Professional credentials earned through the NADSP E-Badge Academy

## Attention DSPs and direct supervisors of DSPs-

If you've been employed at Shadowfax for at least 6 months, and you think you may be interested in pursuing a professional certification here are some quick facts about the E-Badge Academy program!

### Did you know?

- You can earn badges toward certification at your own pace
  - Example: DSP-I requires 15 total badges
- Each badge only takes an average of 15 minutes to prepare and submit
- Many Relias annual trainings count towards certification
- Your lifetime experience as a DSP counts towards certification
- After earning a certification within a year of enrollment, receive an hourly pay increase!

You can find an application form in Bamboo under Staff Info. Applications can be submitted at any time by scanning the completed form to sftraining@shadowfax.org. New groups are enrolled quarterly. Questions? Contact Elizabeth Dellinger at elizabethd@shadowfax.org, Kenna Cline at kenna.cline@shadowfax.org, or call Pattison St. at 717-854-7742. **Want to learn more?** Come to a half-hour information session on Nov 12 at Pattison St, either at 9:30am or 4:30pm.

## The following Shadowfax team members have earned professional certifications!

Wendy Albright—DSP	Jim Morthland—FLS	Rebecca Lieberknecht—FLS
Karen Swarr—DSP-I	Jasmin Ramage—FLS	Tracy Stadd—DSP-III
Doanique Willis—DSP-I	Sara DeVore—FLS	Tina Markle—DSP-III
Jaquetta Rice—DSP-I	Jen Grove—FLS	Brandy Ashley—DSP-III
Nicole Bilajac—DSP-I	Donielle Turner—FLS	Karen Goldberg—DSP-III
Amanda Olson—FLS	Courtney Knaub—FLS	Judy Ramos—DSP-III

If you're currently enrolled in the E-Badge Academy, feel free to drop in at any of the sessions listed here. We'll be available to answer questions, offer helpful tips, etc.

Drop-in sessions scheduled for current E-Badge enrollees:

11/4/2024 9:30-10:30am and 4:30-5:30pm

11/20/2024 9:30-10:30am and 4:30-5:30pm

12/2/2024 9:30-10:30am and 4:30-5:30pm

## **Training News**

### New class!

Join Kenna for <u>Discovering the Practicality of the Core</u> Competencies

Do you know how putting the NADSP competencies into practice can benefit you and the people you support? Come join in a training and discussion on the NADSP's 15 Competencies, we would love to give you some practical ways to put them into use and to hear the ways you already have.

Who: DSPs, Supervisors, PSs, ADs, anyone interested.

Where: The training room at Pattison St.

When: 11/4/24 1pm, 11/22/24 10am, 12/3/24 4:30pm,

12/18/24 11am

## **Training Calendar**

Check Relias for the most up-to-date schedule when enrolling in a class.

OTO- Market St Diabetes Education
@ Pattison
11/14/24 @ 9:30am

11/26/24 @ 1pm 11/5/24 @ 9:30am

Red Cross /FA/CPR/
AED—Pattison
11/7/24 @ 1pm
11/21/24 @ 1pm

11/25/24 @ 4:30pm

## **Med Taskforce**

Medication errors have steadily decreased over the past 3 years. Our goal is to keep that trending in the right direction:

2022 averaged 7.8 med errors per month
2023 averaged 6.8 errors per month
2024 is averaging 5.1 errors per month with
only 3 months to go in the year.

Excellent job, team! Keep doing your checks and following every step in the process. I know it can be tedious, but the results show tremendous growth and change. Communication of new medications, discontinued medications and dosage changes also go a long way in minimizing the potential for errors. If anyone would like to share what specifically helps you and your team please email Lucas at lucasa@shadowfax.org or send a note through interoffice mail addressed to Lucas Adams. I will share it in our medication task force committee meetings, and we will implement whatever we can throughout the agency.







## **Safety Committee**

Halloween Safety Tips for a Fun & Safe Celebration

As Halloween approaches, let's make sure our festivities are as safe as they are fun! Here are some key reminders to keep in mind:

## Costume Considerations

- Avoid costumes with hooks, trip hazards, or accessories that may catch on objects especially in Day Program settings where individuals move frequently through different areas.
- Choose simple, comfortable costumes that allow for free movement and visibility.
   Remember, safety comes first!

## **Residential Program Outings**

- Residential staff, please stay mindful of surroundings during outdoor activities, like pumpkin walks, corn mazes, or haunted attractions. Uneven ground and crowded spaces can increase the risk of falls.
- Keep flashlights handy for evening outings.

Have fun Safely! Let's make this Halloween a memorable one by celebrating in a way that keeps everyone safe and ensures a good time for all!

# In Loving Memory



Sandy Zombro

Rachael Groce

**Bev Shafer** 

Joel Hershey

# **Honoring our Dedicated DSPs—We want to hear from YOU!**



"I really enjoy working with our individuals for all these years as it has really impacted my life for the better. It is truly an experience of a lifetime. Enjoying each day differently brings me so much joy and happiness."

-Sherry Bare







"I was hired the day after my birthday way back in 1991. I worked in Residential part-time for 2 years before switching to Day Program part-time. Even after switching from Residential to Day, I continued to help in Residential. Six months later I took a full time position in my current room. Years later I did a manager 1 position for a year. This is when I realized how much love and enjoyment I shared with the individuals that I worked with. So I quickly jumped back into my current position, and 33 years later I still enjoy spending time and seeing the individuals I share my day with grow. I have seen MANY positive changes with the individuals I work with. They have taught me so much about life and I enjoy teaching them how to be the best that they can be. I love spending my day with them. October 10, 2024 will be my anniversary of 33 years."

-Barb Bell



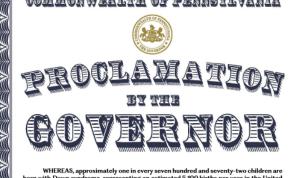












WHEREAS, approximately one in every seven hundred and seventy-two children are born with Down syndrome, representing an estimated 5,100 births per year in the United States; and

WHEREAS, the average life expectancy of an individual with Down syndrome in the United States has increased to over-sixty years of age; and

WHEREAS, early intervention and continuing medical advances have enabled those with Down syndrome to have longer and more fulfilling lives; and

WHEREAS, families, schools, healthcare professionals, and governments, with the aid of local Down syndrome services create opportunities, raise awareness, and facilitate solutions for these valued members of our community; and

WHEREAS, Down syndrome is the most common genetic disorder and thirty-eight percent of the population knows someone with Down syndrome; and

WHEREAS, individuals with Down syndrome possess relevant skills and abilities and should have equal opportunity to achieve the universally desired goals of self-fulfillment, pride in their achievements, and inclusion in their community through employment, education, social interaction, and personal relationships in order to reach their fullest potential.

THEREFORE, I, Josh Shapiro, Governor of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, do hereby proclaim October 2024 as

#### DOWN SYNDROME AWARENESS MONTH

in support of individuals with Down syndrome, as well as their families, advocates, researchers, and medical professionals. I encourage all Pennsylvanians to work together to promote respect and inclusion of individuals with Down syndrome and to celebrate their accomplishments and contributions



GIVEN under my hand and the Seal of the Governor, at the City of Harrisburg, this twenty-fourth day of September two thousand twenty-four, the year of the Commonwealth the two hundred fortyninth.



Governor Josh Shapire

## Go Green Column- Halloween Edition

### Transportation

Trick or Treat by walking around your neighborhood instead of driving to another destination. Get to know your neighbors, reduce carbon emissions and help keep the streets safe for other walkers.

#### Reuse

Resuse as much as you can from year to year. Instead of throwing away an old box or bag, use it to gather all your decorations and keep for next year. Plus, you can surprise your family and friends by quickly pulling out your box and throwing an impromptu Halloween party any time of the year!

# Bat's all folks!

## The Shadowfax Corporation

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### Mission Statement:

Shadowfax's mission is to be a leader for people with disabilities and their families. Through our dedicated team, we provide high quality self-directed supports to empower people in developing skills to live and thrive within their community.





