



Erie Homes for Children and Adults
extraordinary **people**, extraordinary **programs**

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Erie Homes for Children and Adults

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DSP Recognition Week: September 12-18

A DSP, or direct support professional, is defined as: a person who assists an individual with a developmental disability to lead a self-directed life and contribute to the community, assists with daily living if needed, teaches life skills, and encourages attitudes and behaviors that enhance inclusion. At EHCA, nearly 3/4 of our workforce are DSPs. They are the staff who directly interact day in and day out with the residents and program participants served.

- DSPs work all different shifts.
- DSPs help feed, bath, toilet, groom, dress, lift the people they take care of.
- DSPs often do household chores at work, too, such as laundry and dishes.
- DSPs transport individuals by driving agency vans and operating wheelchair lifts.
- DSPs are responsible for administering medications and following physicians' orders.
- DSPs are always prepared in case of an emergency.

But DSPs also befriend those they work with; they become their biggest advocates. They help them reach personal goals and are there to celebrate every milestone. DSPs get to witness the excitement in one's face when they attend their first ballgame or listen to a new genre of live music. They inspire those they serve, and are equally or more so inspired in return.

"Direct support professionals are the everyday heroes that help people with disabilities realize their dreams and enjoy the daily liberties and human rights the rest of us take for granted."

~The National Alliance for DSPs

September 12-18, DSPs all across America will be recognized for their heroic efforts. Join us by thanking a DSP you know!

Upcoming Events



Tickets now on sale for the 1st Annual Kegs & Corks!

You are invited to join us at the 1st Annual Kegs & Corks to benefit the mission of EHCA to assist people with disabilities to live rich and fulfilling lives. The event will feature the signature tastings of local breweries and wineries, and also offer musical entertainment, a Chinese auction, light snacks, and a great atmosphere for socializing with friends and neighbors. The Blue Canoe's kitchen will be open for additional food orders, so bring your gang and head to Titusville for a fun, laid back day!

Join us October 9, from 3 - 6 p.m., at the Blue Canoe Brewery in downtown Titusville. Tickets available at www.ehca.org/kegsandcorks.

Download the event flyer [here!](#)

[Beer/wine vendors](#) are now being recruited!

For more details, please call Emily Fritz at 814-454-1534 x157, or reply to fritz@ehca.org.

Annual Dinner: Date Change!

Thursday, October 28
Ambassador Center's Atrium
6 p.m.—Social Hour
7 p.m.—Dinner & Program

Look for more details to follow soon!

Highmark Foundation Awards Project First Step \$71,000

Unique in its offerings, Project First Step, run by EHCA, is a multi-service program that supports families in the community dealing with disabilities so they can deliver healthy babies and raise healthy families. With a long waiting list of people hoping to receive services, the Highmark Foundation has stepped in to ensure EHCA can help more families with a \$35,000 award in 2010, and another \$36,000 in 2011. These funds will support two services: doula and family engagement.

"With this grant from the Highmark Foundation, Project First Step staff will be able to provide more families with services. This is very exciting for the Foundation and EHCA, and we are eager to assist mothers and their children with the help they not only need, but want," says Yvonne Cook, president of the Highmark Foundation.

During a grant reception on August 30, EHCA staff welcomed Yvonne Cook, along with County Executive Barry Grossman and representatives from various county offices to accept the funds. After a short presentation, cookies donated by the Ye Olde Sweet Shoppe and punch were served in the Memorial Garden.

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