

## DIRECT SUPPORT PROFESSIONALS WEEK 2016

### DSP SPOTLIGHT PROFILE – SHEDLYN BIEN-AMIE



Meet Shedlyn Bien-Amie lives in Spring Valley, NY and works as a Direct Support Professional in Jawonio's Without Walls (WOW) Program that prepares young people for community life and independence. She has worked at Jawonio for 3 ½ years, the first few months in the Day Hab at Jawonio Tech, then at WOW. She has been a DSP for over 6 years.

She was inspired to join the field after the death of her grandmother who she describes as an incredibly strong person, who was always helping others and a nurse by profession. Shedlyn was visiting with her grandmother one afternoon when she became very quiet. As Shedlyn brushed her grandmother's hair and chatted

with her she lay down and stopped talking, and eventually stopped breathing. She passed away in Shedlyn's arms. She hadn't known at the time, but her grandmother had been seriously ill. This experience made her decide to pursue the DSP field and care for others.

She took medical assistant training and started working in Pediatrics, then moved to another agency working with adults and then to Jawonio. Her goal was to work in a career to help others and that is just what she is doing.

"I learn from the consumers I work with every day. It is very rewarding to be part of a team that works so well together despite differences, which is so very important. Helping others with the things that they can't do for themselves makes me happy."