

Working with people who have intellectual disabilities is something so rewarding, yet sometimes so challenging. When you walk through those doors you never know what kind of day it's going to be. It could be the most relaxing and amazing day, or it could be one of those days where you contemplate your whole career over and over in your head. Ultimately, whatever day it is to me, it does not matter. All the good days overcome that one day that makes you re-think your job. At the end of the day, it's about helping to create a better future for our individuals.

People don't realize how attached you become. You not only form an attachment to them, but *they* become attached to you as well. You learn and you grow, and a bond forms with each and every individual even when you didn't plan on it – it just happens. I'm honestly so happy to be in the job I am in because they have taught me so much and I have learned so much about who they are, and about how someone you don't even know can become someone who looks up to you.

Without them, I wouldn't have the patience, love, respect, open mind, and most importantly, the happiness that I have now. People don't realize the HUGE impact this job has on your heart. I wouldn't change this for the world.

~ Staff submission from Delaney Ave