

**ARRM Cares Nomination: Samantha Summy**  
***Suburban House***  
***Years of Service: 16 years***

***Professional Integrity:*** Explain how the individual has supported persons served while maintaining high standards to benefit persons served, co-workers, and the organization

Samantha has been a staple at our Suburban House for many years—working at the same Phoenix home for 16 years. So naturally, we call on her to provide training to new employees. She always trains on the best way to complete a task, but also adds personalized touches that she knows the individuals prefer.

She is very flexible in adjusting her schedule to help with the needs of Suburban and picks up when she can, despite her crazy schedule outside of Phoenix. She is so thorough with her job duties and always offers suggestions to make things easier for herself and her coworkers.

“Sam is the calmest, kindest, and most patient person I have had the pleasure to work with,” said our Vice President of Operations. “She takes the time to really hear what each person is saying, even when it might take that person longer to get their point across. She is the definition of a compassionate caregiver!”

***Networking Supports:*** Explain how the individual has advocated to connect persons served with natural support systems. Explain techniques the DSP has used to connect persons served with natural supports

Samantha is always suggesting creative ways to support the individuals in their natural environment. Recently, we had a new individual move into the home Samantha works at. Samantha has been instrumental in helping him find ways to get comfortable with the transition. She suggested many options, including adding pegboards, calendars, and getting him comfortable in the bathroom.

She is an advocate for all individuals and has very good communication with the guardians and families at the home. You can always rely on Sammy to give a smile when someone walks through the door, and she’s always the first one to offer them a drink or snack.

***Creative, Innovative, Person-Centered Approaches to Services:*** Explain how the individual has personalized services for persons served and how they have demonstrated an ability to develop and implement new person-centered approaches while demonstrating successful results.

Samantha is very resourceful! Regularly, she offers new ideas and solutions to everyday problems within the home. She always offers choices to the residents, never assuming what the person may or may not want. She encourages and supports their independence, but also balances that with safety.

Recently, we had a new resident move in who was having trouble remembering to shower. Samantha came to the rescue and suggested ways to help him improve this daily habit—and now we’re happy to say, he’s doing much better at remembering to do this regularly.