

Darcy Meagher of Functional Industries honored by state organization

Direct support professional Darcy Meagher of Functional Industries, Buffalo, has received a statewide Direct Support Professionals Award for exceptional performance in serving individuals with disabilities. The honor is from the Minnesota Organization for Habilitation and Rehabilitation.

Meagher, who works as a program coach for individuals with high medical needs, is the winner for the Enrichment Focus category for greater Minnesota. In presenting the award at the annual MOHR conference, awards committee member Gwen Bowler said Meagher is a model to her coworkers who demonstrates exactly how Functional Industries is to serve others.

"Darcy does not look at individuals' disabilities, but instead, their abilities," she stated.

Meagher said she's the type of person who likes stress and emergency settings, and is very calm and willing to take on new responsibilities. Before coming to Functional, she worked five years in a group home.

"I communicate through laughter, just talking with them. If it's not verbal, it's pictures. I just get a feel for what they want," Meagher commented.

The pay rate isn't an issue for Meagher.

"I go because I like what I do. I like helping people with disabilities. That's my way of life," she explained.

Meagher added that the participants she serves are always in her heart, and that she thinks about them constantly. One of the people in her group is her daughter, who is 21.

Meagher is also the guardian for her brother, who had a brain injury in 1999.

"And, with my parents, I've always taken care of

them ... I'm a caregiver, I guess," she said.

She also gets called on by several group homes to help when needed.

Functional Industries, Inc. serves individuals with disabilities and is a member of MOHR. The association represents more than 100 providers in the state and serves some 26,000 individuals with disabilities.



Darcy Meagher (left) with Functional Industries receives the Minnesota Organization for Habilitation and Rehabilitation award for 2017 Direct Support Professional, Greater Minnesota Enrichment Services from Gwen Bowler (right), executive director with Chippewa Enterprises in Montevideo.

