



### My Mission Statement

My vision is to help people see themselves as a gift from creation. A gift is something to offer and I believe we all have something to offer; a piece of ourselves to share with one another that builds a connection.

### Denise Walker's Bio

I have enjoyed working for Riverside County Mental Health, now named Riverside University Health System/Behavioral Health, for eleven years now. I started working in a FSP (Full Service Partnership) homeless program as a Peer Support Specialist. At that time there wasn't a career ladder or a position called Senior PSS. After about a year they created the Senior position and promoted 3, I would be the 4<sup>th</sup> SPSS after the initial promotions. I worked very hard being the First Senior of an Innovative Program mentoring 6 newly employed PSS. Daily I learn how to be a better role model but in the first year there were many lessons to be learned from all of the staff.

I then transferred to our Mid-County Region mentoring PSS in 7 programs, this included our sub-contracted facilities. Again learning how to be there for the benefit of those we serve.

I now mentor volunteers, interns, trainee PSS, journeyman level PSS and new Senior PSS. At one time for 6 months, due to staffing shortages, I mentored 28 PSS's. I'm certified through RI and I've also been through the Counties training "Supervisor Academy". Although I've had many trainings I believe my lived experience walking through some challenging moments within the department has given me the expertise to co-facilitate this webinar, "Peer Support 4 Peer Supporters".

There are many duties a SPSS encompasses such as training all staff in 7 different curriculums over the years, for me the most important one is being present in the moment and letting someone know I care.