

To whom it may concern,

My name is Katrina Dallas and I have been supporting people with intellectual disabilities for about ten years. I started my health care journey in a memory care unit. As much as I loved working with people who have dementia and Alzheimer's, there was something missing. I wanted to make a difference in the world. I wanted to bring more joy and laughter to individuals who may have had a rough upbringing. I also had a rough upbringing, and I want to teach people how to embrace themselves, to feel confident and be comfortable expressing their individually.

Then I heard from a friend about a community day program that supports people with disabilities. I worked there for about three years. I loved the day program. Playing games, going on outings, seeing the residents thrive. At my two-year mark I was feeling like I wasn't doing enough. I always feel like there is more to do in this community.

I then heard from another friend about Edwards Center. A community with a day program and residential services and more. I wanted to support individuals more one on one and not in a class room setting with 20-30 people. I started as a direct support professional, and I am now a Lead DSp. During the last six years at Edwards Center, I have had the honor of doing the "more" I always strived to find. I have covered the front desk, I have helped the program with activities, I have covered the scheduling department, I have taken residents on weekend beach trips, and lastly, I am one of the photographer for events run by Edwards Center. This community has given me the opportunity to learn and grow as a person but also as a Direct support professional. I will never stop trying to do more for the individuals I serve. I am so honored to have found my place in the world.