



SOCIAL WORKERS ARE ESSENTIAL

LORRAINE MARTINEZ

How long have you been a social worker?

I have been a case manager with the Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD) for 6 years.

Please list any degrees, licenses, etc.

I have my bachelor's in social work, and I am currently working on my master's degree for social work.

Why/How did you get into social work?

I worked as a provider for children and adults in a day program since 2008. I have always loved to help others and work with individuals with developmental disabilities. It has been something that made me want to do more and find ways to help those in my own community.

What motivates you to do social work?

The thing that motivates me the most with working with individuals with developmental disabilities and their families is seeing the progress. Each accomplishment is so refreshing and a fulfilling experience. Being a social worker is a jack of all trades and you become a small part of the families with whom you work. The priceless moments in working with families is seeing how much in a short amount of time, with a team, we can come together and make a difference. The client's excitement in just saying, "Hi" to you shows that you make an impact. Being a social worker is a person who is willing to give a chance to an individual who usually does not have a voice. It is letting them be heard and be a part of their own success.

What advice would you give someone considering social work?

The advice that I would give to someone considering being a social worker is to be a part of a supportive voice for the people in our community to engage in all sorts of communication. This is needed to help the people of our communities; whether it be in the hospitals, clinics, school, government, or DDD. We are the advocates to make a change to help one another. We are here to support our neighbors, friends, and family.