

March 2, 2021

My name is Tina Martire. I have been in the special needs field the majority of my life- I started as a teacher in the public and private sector, worked family support in DDS and private families but when I came to CLASP- it was like coming home. I have been part of the CLASP family for close to 30 years and as an ambassador for our folks, I am happy to have the opportunity to talk today about the huge need to increase wages for our field. Our folks are entrusted to our care and even in the worst of times with the least amount of money, we take the very best care of our “family” and will not compromise quality of service. Having said that, it’s just not ok that we can’t make ends meet with our job’s wages. Too often we find our staff and many of us being forced for economic reasons to work 2-3 jobs just to supplement the much needed income to take care of their families.

The strain of such a schedule and the impact it has on people’s health, well being and family life is immense and yet the smiles constantly emerge when our group home door opens. The work we do will always be needed and is critical for our folks’ quality of life as well as for our staff’s quality of life. Our CLASP family has never been us and them-we have always been one family. This is our main focus. It is our grateful hope that you will ease the worry with financial increase in this economic situation enabling us to keep the main focus the main focus.

Respectfully submitted

Tina Martire

CLASP Homes