Next week will be five years since I've been working for Community Access Services in Columbia County. I've always been kind of a natural caretaker, but never considered working in this field. However I quickly realized this was something I could see myself sticking with. Supporting and advocating for adults with developmental disabilities has always been close to my heart as I support a family member at home who is on the autism spectrum.

I believe DSP's deserve a professional wage because we are so much more than what our titles describe for the individuals we support. We do everything in our power to support amazing adults achieve their goals and desires in life so they can live the happiest lives they can, and I believe we deserve a wage that would support us to do the same. I know I'm not the only one that feels this way when I say I truly care about the individuals I support and love my job deeply. I believe if we are paid a fair professional wage I can see myself continuing here for many years to come while living a life that makes me happy.

Claire Jones, DSP, Clatskanie