



Breonna's Story

by Shannon (mom)

My daughter Breonna has been attending the DEAR Day program for three years. It was her first adult program since leaving the public school system.

We visited four programs that were much closer to home before visiting DEAR. It only took a few moments to know that this was the right place for Breonna. The employees as well as the clients had smiles on their faces. The atmosphere was very welcoming. What really sealed the deal was my daughter's huge smile on her face when she saw all of the activities, especially the music room.

I cannot say enough nice things about this program. My daughter still loves it just as much as she did when she first stepped foot in the door. The staff know my daughter pretty well despite the fact that she is unable to speak. They have learned her needs and wants by her facial expressions. They especially learned that you do not mess with Breonna if she is holding something meaningful to her, which in most cases is a dollar bill in her hand.

The staff been gracious enough to allow Breonna to bring home certain items that she refused to give up before leaving the program, even if that meant that Breonna wanted to hold on to an item for two days before allowing them to have it back. The DEAR program has given my daughter some independence, some great friends and a sense of belonging, other than home and family. I am glad we chose this place for her and I am thankful for knowing that she is well cared for.



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