

Mission Spotlight: Deb Flavin

Deb is learning new skills
and making new friends



When Deb Flavin decided to participate in therapy and other activities at The Price Center, she had no idea she would accomplish learning so many new skills or make special friendships there. At 53 years old, Deb who uses a purple “power” chair to get around had already participated at other agencies that help those with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD). Yet within a few days, she realized that The Price Center was different and that she would have a chance to learn to stand, perhaps walk, become more independent, do some creative activities and just as important, she could begin to make some special friends. Now she has learned how to use a microwave, become more social, makes more decisions about her life and is creating a wonderful piece of art for the Center.

Deb has been at The Price Center now for about two years and has made a strong friendship and found a nurturing partner in Melissa O’Connell, a member of The Price Center staff who has worked with individuals with IDD for more than 17 years . Melissa, Deb’s Case Manager and OTA, encourages Deb every day to try harder and work to achieve her best potential. Even on the days when Deb is concerned that she cannot do some of her activities, Melissa is by her side rooting her on.

“ I really appreciate all of the help I receive and the fact that others believe in me... I love the personalized attention I receive and think the staff is awesome!”

Deb spends some of her time helping other Price Center individuals who cannot speak very well. She holds up pictures and asks them to say the words. While Deb loves music, especially rock, she is also an avid karaoke singer. She and Melissa spend time outside of the Center as their unique friendship and bonding has grown over the past few years. Recently Deb and Melissa enjoyed seeing Beauty and the Beast together. Another common interest they have is working on craft projects together.

Prior to coming to The Price Center, Deb taught herself how to make colorful potholders. Now with Melissa’s help she has created a large, unique piece of art for the Price Center. She and Melissa designed a potholder quilt wall hanging to be hung in the Day Habilitation program where Deb spends her day. The wall hanging symbolizes a special bond of friendship that grew from respect, encouragement, caring and seeing the brighter side of life- all part of the culture at The Price Center. It also symbolizes overcoming fear, being persistent, working hard and the comfort of knowing what it feels like to thrive in a nurturing environment designed especially for each person’s needs.

