



Heather pictured in middle



Heather on right



Heather pictured in pink

This story was shared with us by Lakeland Day Habilitation’s Program Administrator, Krystle Primus

After spending a few months assisting our Lakeland Day Habilitation program, Heather Steimle officially transferred and joined the Lakeland team in April of 2019 as a Lead Community Integration Specialist.

When COVID-19 first started to spread, Heather did not hesitate to be the first one to volunteer to head to the Centereach ICF in March to assist the individuals who would be staying home for what we thought might be a few days. Little did she know that day that Centereach would essentially be becoming her new “home” for the foreseeable future. The following week when the virus was officially diagnosed within the home, Heather had a decision to make. Without a second thought, she said “I have to help” and went right back to work at Centereach, now as a residential staff member.

Through ups and downs, struggles, and many emotional times, Heather has continued to show up every day. She has also taken on many weekend shifts, always with the mindset of “all that matters is keeping them safe and healthy.”

She ran in and stayed when times got tough and that is heroic. Heather’s determination and selflessness is a true testament to her commitment to and love for AHRC Suffolk.