## com Ve

Name Jason Bussey
Passion Working Out

## My Story

After nearly 9 years of managing restaurants a close friend talked me into trying a whole different path. He had been working for a few years for a well-respected provider of services to gentlemen with developmental disabilities, and seemed to enjoy his job. So after the interview process I decided to accept the position and my life was forever changed.

I immediately enjoyed working with the gentlemen that we provided services and was able to rise from a direct care staff, to supervisor, to director of operations in a rather short time.

The position of director of operations allowed me to oversee multiple aspects of the services we provided and allowed me to see almost all of the gentlemen on a weekly basis and assist them in to achieve the goals and do the things they enjoyed to the best of their ability. I remained at that job for 9.5 years and really enjoyed the people I worked for, with, and getting to meet their guardians, SSA's and any other support they had in their life.

While I enjoyed my job very much I had a number of times when I thought about what it would be like to own and work my own day program, as that was my favorite aspect of my role. I had been asked for many years when I was going to become a certified provider, so I finally decided that it was the time to start my own agency.





now Stark DD

Stark County Board of Developmental Disabilities

In partnership with **Developing Opportunities/** JAA Bussey Inc.

Supporting People with Disabilities & Their Families

330-477-5200 • StarkDD.org







I wanted to be able to provide the individual's that we would hopefully serve an environment that they could do meaningful work, enjoy a variety of leisure activities and make new friends to enhance their social skills.

On February 13, 2017 we began our operation with just myself and 3 people who were attending the program. We have now grown to a total of 5 staff who provide care to the individual's we serve and have had no turn over in staff to date. As a group the staff has been able to find a number of yards we take care of throughout the year, have a group of individuals who are the afternoon janitors at a local high school, provide complete mailing services to a local business with 15 to 20 thousand mailings sent out yearly, along with a wide variety of other jobs and services we perform, and continue to look for others.



In my nearly 12 years of working with individual's with developmental disabilities the thing I enjoy the most is meeting new people and building healthy relationships with them. I feel that is the key; the relationships are the piece that help people in the good and bad times. You get to meet people from all walks of life, but for the most part everyone wants the same thing.... they want to find a group of people they can talk with and feel like they belong. It has been great working with the group that attends our program and helping them to achieve their goals the best they can.

Personally, I am 41 years old and married to my wife of almost 18 years. We have a 14 year old daughter who is a freshman in high school and runs track and plays basketball. I enjoy working out every morning and talking with the friends I have made at the gym. I will talk with anyone and enjoy getting to know them.

"Everyone wants the same thing ... they want to find a group of people they can talk with and feel like they belong."



Supporting People with Disabilities & Their Families