

## **Pathfinder Services, Inc. Employees Graduate from State of Indiana Education Program**

Twenty Pathfinder Services, Inc. employees graduated from the State's new Direct Support Professional Development training and education program on Friday, August 14<sup>th</sup>. Employees of Pathfinder Services, Inc. and their friends and families joined other Direct Support Professional's throughout the State of Indiana in a virtual graduation ceremony that took place at 1:30 P.M. on Friday, August 14<sup>th</sup>. Pathfinder Services, Inc. held three separate graduation ceremonies in their Huntington, Wabash and Plymouth offices.

The virtual graduation featured videotaped congratulations from state officials and experts in the field. Immediately following the virtual graduation the twenty graduates received certificates of congratulations. Huntington employees received certificates from Sandi Circle, Human Resources Director in Huntington. Huntington Graduates were: Joslin Collins, Darlene Ehler, Karla Mull, Christy Ray, Sheila Steele, Pamela Stouder and Lois Yarger.

Wabash graduates received a certificate from Sandy Wing, Senior Director of Community Services for Pathfinder Services. Wabash graduates included: Diana Fields, Rebecca Howe, Pricilla Kreider, Natasha Moore, Connie Noirot, Elizabeth Stodgell, and Cathy Tudor.

Plymouth graduates received a certificate from John Niederman, Pathfinder Services, Inc.'s President. Plymouth graduates included: Bertha Collins, Shelly Fletcher, Virginia Forbes, Cora Jakubin, Jennifer McKee, and Sara Palkovich-Peterson.

Congratulations to all Pathfinder Services, Inc. employees who graduated from the program. Each of the ten graduates has 17 college credit hours they can apply toward a Human Services Degree.

The Foundations orientation and the Ivy Tech human services certificate coursework are part of an overall, statewide education and training initiative designed to increase the level of skills for DSPs who work with individuals with developmental disabilities and their families.

DSPs may support individuals with disabilities in a variety of ways. In Indiana they may accompany individuals with disabilities to their jobs, or they may support them in their homes by providing transportation, assisting with communication needs, serving as respite care workers for families, or helping them volunteer, attend church services, go to the movies or otherwise participate in their communities.

For more information on direct support professional careers and training, contact Mary Held at the Center on Community Living and Careers at 812-855-6508 or go to [www.iidc.indiana.edu/training/dsp.htm](http://www.iidc.indiana.edu/training/dsp.htm).

Pathfinder Services, Inc. is a local not for profit organization specializing in working with people with disabilities, and has been serving Huntington County since 1966. Pathfinder Services, Inc. serves over 2,000 individuals with and without disabilities throughout Northeast Indiana. For more information on the services of Pathfinder Services, Inc. please call their Huntington office at (260) 356-0500 or visit [www.pathfinderservices.org](http://www.pathfinderservices.org).