

Spotlight on Those Who Make A Difference!



First in the spotlight is Marilyn Johnson, a special education teacher at West Greene High School in the town of Mosheim, TN. She is a teacher who understands the needs of the students, who goes out of her way to find solutions to problems and who is not only willing to listen to suggestions of the student's family, but also to put them into practice with zeal and passion. Mrs. Johnson brings insight and sensitivity along with a determination to help students succeed. Mrs. Johnson made a world of difference in my son's life. She met me at convenient times and locations to discuss my son's IEP as well as corresponded with me via email. She usually returned my phone call the same day, many times within a few minutes. When my son was trying to pass the Gateway Math Test, Mrs. Johnson worked tirelessly with him day after day, even providing him with practice tests. She gave him accommodations that allowed him to take breaks as needed, but still managed to get him through the test in the amount of time required. Without her intervention, I feel sure my son would not have been able to graduate with a regular education diploma. She not only provided the extra tutoring services he needed for math, but she also worked toward getting a program in place for him that would alleviate the high anxiety he experiences on a daily basis. This program not only addressed his anxiety, but also provided a venue for him to forge new relationships with his peers, thus creating a network of friendships for him. To Mrs. Johnson, I'd like to say a big thank you and want to publicly recognize her outstanding teaching skills as well as her genuine love for her students. She is truly a one in a million teacher and our lives will forever have the positive impact of her generous giving of her talents to this student.....my son. Thank you, Mrs. Johnson, and congratulations from the staff at STEP on being the first recipient of the "Spotlight on Making a Difference" segment. We appreciate you so much!

Ms. Johnson's story submitted by a parent in East TN.