



Liz Jones

Director of Day Programming for Central Ohio

Liz Jones began her career at Hattie Larlham, then known as Add in Central Ohio, in 2006. For the past 14 years, she's demonstrated a true passion for the work that she does, and for the people her work helps. Liz was kind enough to share some details about her work, and where her passion comes from.

Q: Can you talk about the programs under your purview as Director of Day Programming?

A: I've worked with Addventures, Central Ohio's day program, for the past 6 years. Addventures provides educational and recreational experiences for adults with ID/DD. Addventures is known for unique course offerings and strong community integration.

In 2017, Central Ohio started an Employment Services Program. The first service we provided was Career Discovery through the Transition to Work Summer Program (TTW), which helps expose high school student with ID/DD to the local job market. Since 2017, Central Ohio's Employment Services program has become accredited through CARF and is now an Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities (OOD) vendor providing many different types of employment service options.

Q: What is the best part of your job?

A: I am able contribute to programs that make people's lives better. I often talk about how we have the opportunity to create life experiences. It is my hope that every person we serve has the opportunity to do something with us that is so exciting and fulfilling that they remember it forever.

Liz's Career Journey

Residential Supervisor: 2006 to 2008
Quality Manager/QIDP: 2008 to 2014
Addventures Manager: 2014 to 2017
Director of Day Programming for Central Ohio: 2017 to present

"Liz is always seeking to grow and expand her knowledge and to help her team grow. She is a strong advocate of people with disabilities and is always looking for ways to promote community inclusion. Aside from her many notable career accomplishments, Liz is an absolute pleasure to work with and a strong asset to Central Ohio and to Hattie Larlham."

-Michele Layman, Vice President of Operations, Central Ohio

Q: What has been one of the more impactful moments you've experienced at work?

A: In March, COVID-19 brought Addventures to a complete shutdown. It was a very difficult time for both members and staff. People come to Addventures to feel connected, but COVID-19 abruptly severed those connections. As the months passed and Addventures remained closed, it became increasingly clear that Addventures is a significant factor in so many people's health and happiness. Our members needed to reconnect with their friends and community and our staff needed to get back to doing what they love. When Addventures reopened in August it was a great day. People were excited, happy, and full of energy. Staff talked about how being back at Addventures felt like coming home. It reminded all of us just how special our program is.

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Q: If you could convey one succinct message to the public about the impact your programs have, what would it be?

A: Addventures and Hattie Larlham Central Employment Services bring meaning to people's lives. For some, our programs are the reason they get out of bed in the morning. They thrive with us.