



FAVARH - THE ARC OF THE FARMINGTON VALLEY

Spotlight on Staff

CASIE-LYNN BROWN

FAVARH EMPLOYMENT MANAGER

Casie-Lynn Brown works for Favarh's Employment Services as Manager of Contract Services. She was hired in July 2015 to work as a sub and along the way has worked as a job coach at many job sites including TireRack, Hospital For Special Care, and MicroCare. She became an Assistant Manager in 2018 and in January 2022, she was promoted to her current position.

Prior to her time at Favarh, she worked for a long nine-and-a-half-year stint at several Connecticut Subway restaurants in Farmington, Bristol, Southington, and Avon. While working at the Avon Subway, she met her favorite customer -- a Favarh client living at Alleluia House who frequented the restaurant along with his Favarh staff. That's how she became aware of Favarh and the critical role played by our Direct Support Professionals. Encouraged by these encounters, she decided to apply to work at Favarh. "I wanted to work for a company that valued their employees."

Casie was born and raised in Farmington, and recalls how she attended Farmington High School with some of our Favarh individuals. She also shared her unique status as the first donor-egg baby in New England. She grew up with an adopted older brother and her mom who raised her as a single parent from the age of 10 years old. Casie says she is close with her mom. She is also close to her grandparents who live in Farmington and have been married for 68 years. Casie's ancestry includes Swedish roots and memories of fami-

ly traditions like pickled herring, trips to Farmington's long-gone Swedish store for her favorite ginger snaps, and Scandinavian foods she can buy at New Haven's Ikea store.

When asked about her biggest challenge in life, she jokes about her 5'1" stature. "I'm being funny and serious," she says as she shares some of the everyday difficulties faced by people her height. Then her thoughts turn to her best friend.

"I've known Amanda for 11 years. She is fostering babies. My mom was a foster mom too." Casie tells about the challenges and sacrifices foster parents face every time they accept a child into their lives, and how hard it is to let go when the time comes. As Godmother to two of Amanda's foster children, Casie shares in the joys and losses of loving her best friend's foster children.

Casie's thoughts brighten when talking about her work at Favarh. She enjoys watching Favarh individuals grow and blossom from the time they first come into Employment Services after leaving Board of Ed Transition Services. "Seeing them open up and become themselves, coming out of their shell and succeeding... it's one of my favorite aspects of this job."

Her advice to her Favarh colleagues? "Take each day as it comes and go with the flow."

Casie lives in Plainville with her husband Tom, their three cats, bearded dragon, and saltwater fishes.