

Ingham Impact Episode 37 – Stacy Lantzy

Rebecca Wieger: Stacy started about nine years ago, and I was her mentor. I started out as a colleague, and we became friends quickly. Jessica Simmons: My first impression of Stacy was "This is where Scott's supposed to be." I knew right away, she just cared, she wanted to make sure that we felt comfortable, she wanted to know; she asked so many questions about Scott, wanted to know exactly what she could do to better his being here at Heartwood. Chelsea Ryan: She had such a desire to learn as well, with her students, and also teach them, while they explored and learned, that first impression of Stacy really made a mark on me and made me really happy to let Izzy grow and learn with her and from her. Evelyn Davis: I came to work here at Heartwood three years ago, and I worked in Stacy Lantzy's room. Stacy is such an amazing teacher that when she gets a student, it doesn't matter what the disability, she just focuses on what the need is. She looks at each individual step that that student needs to make; whether it's able to stand, going potty on the toilet, sitting up, sitting up without prompts; it's a step by step thing and she just, is focused on every single one. Chelsea Ryan: Recently, Izzy just finally got an assistive device to help her speak and talk. At first, Izzy has been very hesitant with using it, and she still kind of is at home, but here at school she's getting to use it so much more, that she's getting more confident and she's telling us things that she hadn't been able to tell us before, like her braces were hurting or she needs a break; things like that. So, just the fact that Stacy's been willing to learn and bring that device into learning for Izzy, and share that with others has been incredible, and I think very helpful for Izzy. Jessica Simmons: And she knows that these students deserve the best that they can have, and she will push them to that, and she will never give up on them for that. And with that, I don't think Scott would be where he is today because she helped make all those perfection little things, so that way he could grow and be able to continue to become even stronger, even better, and be able to do what all these other kids are doing. With the walking, and the walker; if it wasn't for her dedication to make him get up and do that all the time, and take the time, he wouldn't be where he is now. And now he actually can walk on his own! Stacy Lantzy: I do it because I see constant growth in them. We work hard, and sometimes we're working for a couple weeks, and sometimes we're working for more than a year, but when we finally get that success, and they are able to maintain that skill, it's like the biggest celebration in the world. It's really awesome to see them succeed. Evelyn Davis: Stacy is so in-touch with the parents of these students, that she's much more than a teacher; she's always constantly giving advice for what they can do at home, how they can be a team together to help the student. Jessica Simmons: She opens up herself to be able to let you lean on her, not just as a teacher, but as a friend, as a supportive system. Rebecca Wieger: Stacy is just one example of the blood, sweat, and tears of one person impacting many lives.

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