

Independent Facilitator Biography

Contact Information

Name: Stephanie Sutton

Phone number: 269-224-1090

Email address: ssutton@communityadvocates.org

About the Facilitator

What qualities do you bring to your role as an Independent Facilitator?

I bring approachability, dedication, and a deep passion for advocacy to my role as an Independent Facilitator. With over 15 years of experience in youth development, I've cultivated strong relationship-building skills that help me connect with individuals and families from diverse backgrounds. My enthusiasm, empathy, and ability to listen without judgment create a supportive environment where people feel heard and empowered to make decisions that reflect their goals.



Why do you want to serve as an Independent Facilitator?

I'm driven by a genuine desire to champion self-determination and personal growth. I believe every person deserves the opportunity to shape their own path, and as an Independent Facilitator, I can help make that a reality. My work with youth and families has shown me the transformative power of having someone in your corner—someone who's there to support, guide, and advocate without an agenda. That's the role I strive to fill.

What are some skills or expertise that you have as an Independent Facilitator?

- *Person-Centered Planning:* Experience developing individualized plans that reflect the unique strengths and aspirations of the people I serve.
- *Advocacy:* A strong background in advocating for youth and families, ensuring their voices are central in decision-making processes.
- *Resource Navigation:* Expertise in connecting individuals to community resources, services, and supports tailored to their needs.
- *Communication & Facilitation:* Skilled in leading meaningful conversations, fostering collaboration, and creating spaces where people feel comfortable sharing their goals.
- *Cultural Competency:* A commitment to understanding and respecting diverse perspectives, which helps me build trust and meaningful relationships.

Scheduling Details

Do you need any accommodations in your role as a facilitator?

No, I do not need any accommodations.

Times of day you are available to facilitate: Mornings, afternoons, or evenings

Days of the week you are available to facilitate: Monday-Friday

Geographic locations you are available to facilitate: Kalamazoo, St. Joseph, Cass, Berrien, VanBuren and Barry Counties

Do you have a computer, tablet, or smartphone with internet access for virtual facilitations?

Yes, computer and smartphone

Independent Facilitator Level of Competency

Level of Competency: I (Trained)

Level 1: Independent Facilitator has completed the Independent Facilitator training provided by the Michigan Developmental Disabilities Institute at Wayne State University.