

HUMAN RELATIONS



JUSTINE A. BROWNELL

Department of Health and
Human Services,
Black Mountain Neuro-
Medical Center

Justine A. Brownell works as a sewing machine operator at Black Mountain Neuro-Medical Treatment Center, under the Department of Health and Human Services. In her role, Brownell works closely with different therapy divisions to create adaptive clothing and supportive tools to address the unique needs of the residents.

Throughout the pandemic, Brownell made it a priority to develop meaningful relationships with the staff and residents at Black Mountain Neuro-Medical Treatment Center. As a trained feeding assistant, she would often assist a resident with special needs to have meals on the porch to get fresh air. Struck by the ease of adjusting the resident's adaptive cape, she realized how the expanded use of capes like these can create equal opportunities for other residents to participate in outdoor activities.

Brownell worked with the life enrichment supervisor to begin the Cape Program. On top of her already demanding workload, Brownell began producing one outdoor cape every two weeks. She was determined to use her sewing skills to improve the lives of residents.

Though she had never worked with this population before, Brownell dove into her work and consistently found new ways to help her residents. She improved the lives of many individuals at the treatment center by creating lap activity blankets with a variety of themes, textures and colors to promote sensory engagement.



From adaptive hair bands to sensory tool belts, Justine A. Brownell took the time to look at each individual resident and determine how she could use her creations to benefit their lives. Described by her peers as open, curious and positive, Brownell exemplifies how one individual can touch the lives of many. She is an extraordinary employee of the State of North Carolina.