

MEET SECONDARY SCHOOL Teacher

Ms. Karen with her daughter, Stephanie Snyder, who is also a teacher at Fairhaven School.

Karen Thomas

Karen has worked for the Trumbull County Board of Developmental Disabilities (TCBDD) for 36 years as a secondary school teacher at Fairhaven.

While there are many things Karen loves about working at TCBDD, she finds the best thing about the job to be the kids she gets to interact with and teach. She enjoys watching them work hard, grow and learn to become more independent. She finds this aspect of the job to be extremely rewarding, as the students are able to turn any bad day around and bring joy into every situation.

Karen works hard to be a positive influence on those she works with, respecting those around her in hopes that her behavior toward others will resonate throughout her classroom as well. Her biggest goal is to challenge her students to be the best they can be and to help them grow into successful individuals. She strives to help others feel good about themselves and be proud of their accomplishments.

Karen has been married for 36 years to her husband Doug – she got married and started her career at TCBDD in the same year! She has two children, Douglas and Stephanie, who have also worked beside her at TCBDD for the past two years. She also has a wonderful dog named Teddy who her family rescued three years ago.

In her free time, Karen enjoys spending time with her family, especially her new grandson Liam. She loves to travel and sings in her church choir.