

*Gene Paliescheskey*

*Title: Community Development & Integration Coordinator:*

*I am thankful that I work in such an influential field, where I can impact the lives of so many people, not just today but in the future too. By helping to change the way people see individuals living with mental health challenges and disabilities, I am hoping to improve the opportunities for awareness. I would love to continue helping to create stronger families and communities, with the services and compassion that HopeWorx & CommunityWorx promotes and excels in!*

*What We Do: Assistance with immediate needs (e.g., food, laundry) a furniture program that connects volunteers with donated furniture activities (e.g., art programs, karaoke, camping trips) connections to AdvocacyWorx as well as other organizations outside of HopeWorx.*

*Gene, a Certified Recovery Specialist, brings his own lived experience with recovery and homelessness when working with folks in CommunityWorx. Gene and the rest of the team greet folks that come into CommunityWorx without judgment or assumption. Gene highlights, "When folks come in, we prioritize, we don't burden them with paperwork, we feed them, get them comfortable, and prioritize whatever their needs are. We work with them and then hand them over to Akilah [AdvocacyWorx]." We highlight the important role that compassion plays in everything CommunityWorx does, "We're all about compassion". Gene hopes for more satellite offices of CommunityWorx to be opened across the community."*