



Nancy Risen - CLTS Mentor

Nancy brings a unique combination of personal experience, professional training, and genuine compassion to her role as a CLTS at Eau Claire Cruisers. As a devoted wife, mother, and grandmother, she understands firsthand the importance of creating supportive environments where individuals can heal and thrive.

#### Background & Personal Journey

Growing up in a large blended family with nine siblings spanning a 24-year age range, Nancy learned early that our differences are what make us extraordinary. This foundation taught her the power of acceptance and understanding – values that now guide her work with families navigating mental health and substance use challenges.

When Nancy isn't supporting clients, you'll find her embracing the outdoors with her husband on motorcycle rides, hiking trails, camping under the stars, or casting a line while fishing. Most importantly, she treasures time spent with her children and grandchildren, who remind her daily why her work matters.

#### Professional Experience & Passion

Over the past decade, Nancy has dedicated herself to supporting families, children, and adults through their most challenging moments involving AODA (Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse) and mental health struggles. Her approach centers on truly listening to each person's story and empowering them to take confident steps forward in their recovery.

journey.

Nancy's mission is simple yet profound: to help every person she encounters recognize that they are worthy, strong, and enough.

#### Educational & Career Evolution

Nancy's path to peer support began with a Medical Office Specialist degree, but she quickly realized her true calling lay in direct service to others. She pursued training as a CNA and EMT-B, credentials that allowed her to provide compassionate care during her parents' end-of-life transitions. These experiences deepened her understanding of human resilience and solidified her commitment to helping others navigate life's most difficult chapters.

#### Her Approach

Nancy believes that life's challenges, while inevitable, don't have to define us. She specializes in helping individuals and families emerge stronger from adversity by developing essential life skills, building self-confidence, and fostering self-worth in a supportive, loving environment.

As a strong, positive female role model, Nancy is particularly passionate about empowering both children and adults to develop compassion for others while building unshakeable confidence in themselves. She understands that everyone needs preparation for life's unexpected turns, and she's committed to ensuring her clients don't just survive – they thrive.

#### What Sets Nancy Apart

Nancy's greatest strength lies in her ability to create a safe space where people feel truly heard and understood. Her lived experience, combined with her professional training and natural empathy, allows her to connect with clients on a deeply authentic level. She knows that healing happens in relationships, and she's dedicated to being the supportive presence that helps individuals discover their own inner strength and resilience.