

A Day for CNAs

I love certified nursing assistants! I love the tender way they apply their skills. I love their dedication to a job that's tough. I love the demonstrations of their compassion – the hugs, the smiles, the encouragement, the reassuring touches. I love their perseverance. I love their selflessness.

Take Sandra Santos, as an example. She has been a CNA at Life Care Center of Lawrenceville, Ga., since 2004, and won the 2009 *Whatever It Takes And Then Some* award for the Eastern Division.



And no wonder! When a resident of the facility – a Mr. Robertson – had to be hospitalized, Santos went to visit him on her own time. While there, she noticed that he needed some “freshening up,” and she wasn’t about to let one of her residents look like he did. She gave him a bed bath and a shave. Then she placed the pillows on his bed exactly how he liked them positioned, so that he could be more comfortable.

Mr. Robertson’s wife, moved by the experience, brought a letter to Santos at the center, which stated, in part: “Words can’t describe what Sandra does on a daily basis. She brings laughter, compassion, and doesn’t need an audience or have to be asked to do special things for people. I know she is there for me and will help in any way, regardless of the situation. She is unbelievable, and I love her dearly.”

Another resident said that Santos “always goes beyond what is required to make my mother happy and to take care of her needs. It is always a pleasure to interact with her.”

Santos represents thousands of certified nursing assistants across our company who consider their work more than a job. They feel what they do is in response to a calling from God to take care of His children – and what a special privilege, albeit a great responsibility, that is.

Today is Career Nursing Assistants Day, and the start of the 34th annual National Nursing Assistants Week. The care and happiness of our residents depend in large part on our nursing assistants. They are instrumental in promoting and safeguarding the physical, mental, emotional and spiritual wellbeing of our residents and families.

The observance of this week provides many opportunities to recognize and validate the role our nursing assistants play.

Life Care Centers of America thanks our nursing assistants – for the character they have and the contributions they make.

As I said, I love CNAs.

– Beecher Hunter