

# Take a Bow, Caregivers

Brandy Gainey, unit manager at Life Care Center of Greeneville, Tennessee, is described by one of her residents as “the best and most efficient supervisor and caring person I have ever had the privilege to know.”

Her co-workers notice her compassion and love for her residents and relate that she will take her personal money to buy and treat her residents with their favorite foods from various local food places to give them a special treat.

One resident had a sentimental pocket watch that was accidentally washed and damaged. Brandy knew how important this watch was to him, and especially how upset he would be without it. She searched for one on the internet and found a replica. She purchased it, and had it inscribed exactly like the original one. The resident was ecstatic to have his watch back.

Ami French is a registered nurse at Life Care Center of Sarasota, Florida, who learned that one of her patients does not speak English as a primary language. This made communication with the patient difficult and led to many misunderstandings.

So, Ami developed nonverbal cues and gestures to help her communicate with the patient. She used her creativity and items brought from home to enhance the conversations. Bringing stuffed animals, dolls and handmade items produced a sense of comfort and security to all of her patients. She lifts everyone’s spirits with her positive attitude, her giving soul and optimistic outlook.

Today, Nov. 13, is Caregiver Appreciation Day. While there is no presidential proclamation or congressional act naming it so, caregivers deserve this recognition.

Tens of millions of Americans selflessly give their time to care for those who are ill, disabled or elderly. The day of recognition is for both paid and unpaid caregivers – including volunteers in our centers who offer their help.

Some interesting statistics:

- About 30 percent of the U.S. population, some 65 million Americans, are caregivers in some way.
- According to the U.S. Department of Labor, more than 40 million Americans, age 15 or older, provide unpaid care to the elderly alone.

So today, we salute all our caregivers in Life Care and Century Park, as well as those who seek to serve their fellow men and women in some unpaid capacity.

Take a well-deserved bow!

*And let us not grow weary of doing good (Galatians 6:9-10 ESV).*

– Beecher Hunter

