

What Stella Does

Stella Pasion is a shining star at Hallmark Manor in Federal Way, Washington. She greets all facility residents, associates and visitors with a genuine smile. Her caring, warm personality immediately puts everyone at ease. They feel comfortable and appreciated in her presence. Her commitment to her residents and family members goes far beyond the descriptions of her job.

During the Christmas holidays last year, Pasion organized her fellow associates to make theme shirts for Christmas and the New Year observance. The shirts were passed out to the residents, who took great joy in donning the festive attire. During this time, the annual Senior Winter Ball was also being presented. So Pasion spent her time off assisting residents in fixing their hair and finding special outfits for this magical evening. The residents looked glamorous, and they enjoyed the feeling and the evening, because of Pasion's desire to serve.

This is National Nursing Assistants Week, which focuses on ways nursing assistants make a difference in the lives of people in their care. It also showcases innovative approaches nursing assistants create to foster comfort, alleviate stress, encourage friendships and provide for the wellbeing of our elder or infirm citizens.

Life Care is blessed to have thousands of certified nursing assistants like Stella Pasion, who is, not surprisingly, one of Life Care's eight division Whatever It Takes winners for 2004. Their skills and their compassion, more than any other reason, establish the reputation of Life Care Centers of America.

Is Life Care a premier provider of long-term health care, which is our mission? I believe that we are. And we can thank, in large measure, our certified nursing assistants.

We appreciate them – each and every week – but we give them a special salute this week.

--Beecher Hunter