

Marilyn

Marilyn Moorhead has been in the health services and rehab field for 30 years. The first 21 years were at Westwood Convalescence and Care facility in Sioux City, Iowa, and the last 9 years at Fountain Springs Health Care. In all these years, her days off due to sickness total two, and in all those years, including many blizzards and ice storms, she has never been late! This is just part of her work ethic to be where you are supposed to be on time. If not, certain tasks and work operations have to be rescheduled and this only hurts the residents.

The utmost dedication that she has to every aspect of her profession is unmatched - from making sure all computer files are updated to the minute, all paper trails covered, and always making sure the residents' needs are promptly met. She has at times been asked by certain higher personnel for her advice and opinions on facility and care ideas. Also, some newer employees gravitate to Marilyn for instruction and advice. They see her as a good role model and one who has good judgement.

Many times when leaving for work, she says, "I'm going to spend some time with my other family". For example at the Shrine Circus, she will purchase a stuffed animal or trinket for someone she thinks might enjoy it. At craft events, she is always finding some little gift to put a smile on a resident's face. She always comments on how they appreciate even the smallest things. You would be hard pressed to find anyone who is more compassionate and caring than Marilyn. Both on and off the job, she is concerned with the needs of others. Many residents have and will continue to have quality time since she has touched their lives.

Marilyn always said, "I just can't get too close, because it hurts so much to lose one". Well, of course she gets close. There is no way she could not get close with her heart. One lady, whom she dearly loved, left this earth a little over a year ago. She knew everything that was happening and had a very close and caring family, yet, at the last moments she called for Marilyn to hold her hand. Such love!

Her generosity does not stop at a death of a resident. Many flowers and holiday decorations have been taken to graves. They may not be here physically, but as long as Marilyn is around, her other families' spirit will shine forever. For someone who continues to put a great part of her life into care and health service, to receive such an award of appreciation from her community is truly a great honor.

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