

An Up and Coming Direct Care Worker Advocate!



Name: Dianne Cummings

Hometown: Des Moines, IA

A few words about my work: I am currently working as a HCA/Mentor for Generations Incorporated in Des Moines. I truly love the work I do helping others and mentoring new trainees.

Recent accomplishments: Recently I asked to continue as a mentor for Generations as a Level III Mentor. I have also attended the Direct Care Alliance Conference in Washington, D.C. Being accepted as a member of the ICA Advisory Council is truly an honor.

My first job: I began working as a CNA at Luther Park Health Center. There I was able to work with a very caring staff who encouraged me to continue in the health care field.

My favorite part of caregiving: As a HCA, my favorite part would be providing the cares my clients need to allow them to remain in their own home, and

seeing the smiles they have when their needs are met.

The toughest part of caregiving: The toughest part is losing a client. When they have been a part of my life and I of theirs for any length of time, as each client is special in their own way.

Something I'd like to change about the caregiving industry: The caregiving industry needs to recognize us and respect us for the work we do. We are the eyes and the ears of the industry and need to be heard.

How caregiving will change in the next decade: There is a growing demand for caregivers, and lawmakers need to understand the importance of the direct caregiver. There needs to be incentives for caregivers that will make the work they do worthwhile, while knowing they are a valuable part of the health care industry.

What advice would you give to employers about what they need to do to recruit and retain direct care workers: They need to recruit and retain caregivers to meet the growing demand there is, and will be in the future. Everyone needs to understand the importance of the work we do and how much it means to the people we care for.

Something else I'd like to accomplish: I would like to become a better more outspoken caregiver, letting people know how important we are to the health care industry.

Someone I admire: Di Findley and Heidee Barrett

Outside interests: My son and family, reading, soccer.

About my family: My husband, Wayne, and my son, Mike (age 12), I love very much. They are my life and support me in everything I do, and my father, Glen, who has always taught me to do for others the way I would want them to do for me.

Favorite vacation spot: Lake Okoboji