

An Up and Coming Direct Care Worker Advocate!



Name: Irene Davidson

Hometown: Grinnell, Iowa

A few words about my work:

I have never loved my job as much as I like being a CNA.

Recent accomplishments:

Earned the residents and coworkers trust. Member of the Iowa CareGivers Association Direct Care Worker Advisory Council. Traveled to Washington, D.C. with the council to attend the Direct Care Alliance Conference.

My first job:

I never had another job in the U.S. before I got this job as a CNA.

My favorite part of caregiving:

The smiles of my residents and thank you's of my coworkers for being helpful to them.

The toughest part of caregiving:

My body is getting weaker and weaker every day and my age is getting older and older.

Something I'd like to change about the caregiving industry:

The certification of CNAs should not last just 2 years while we are still in the field active.

How caregiving will change in the next decade:

Education is costing too much, people cannot afford to get certified.

What advice would you give to employers about what they need to do to find and keep direct care workers?

Treat the new employee in a good way, give credit for the good job as a reward.

Something else I'd like to accomplish:

Bring more of my coworkers to conferences.

Someone I admire:

The leaders of ICA.

About my family:

My husband--he is proud of my courage to continue my education.

Favorite vacation spot:

I enjoy staying at home and being a good wife and housekeeper.