
2014 Facility Super Star Awards



Abigail 'Abby' Alvis

Director of Accounting Services
Riverside Health Care, Chico
35-plus years in long-term care

"Abby" is an active community volunteer who started at the facility as a kitchen worker when she was still in high school. She is a terrific teacher and coach who takes on new challenges. With little formal training, she blossomed as business office manager. Since then she has completed her four-year degree and even been brought in by corporate as an A/R consultant and assistant to the controller.

Irma Basaldua

Administrative Service Director
Avalon Health Care, Merced
33 years in long-term care

Starting as a CNA, she has moved up the career ladder as receptionist, payroll worker and office manager. Bilingual, she is always an advocate for the residents and helps with lunch at least once a week to stay in touch with the residents.



Angie Beeson, RN

CNA Instructor/DSD
Eureka Rehabilitation and Wellness Center
29 years in long-term care

At the age of 15, Angie applied for a job at 4:30, was hired at 5 and on the floor at 5:15 working as a dining aide. She would walk to school, then work the 3-to-10 shift. As an LVN and RN, she has held many positions, including CNA instructor, training more than 1,500 new nursing assistants, many of whom have gone on to be nurses themselves.



Carol Bojorquez

Recreation Services Director (RSD) /Alzheimer's Care Assistant (ACA)

Golden Living Center-Country View Alzheimer's Care, Fresno
28 years in long-term care

Starting as an activity assistant in 1985, Carol Bojorquez quickly became the recreational services director, then changed her role to Alzheimer's care assistant. Carol still heads activities but has also learned the social-services role, providing resident assessments, tours, documentation and ensuring her residents receive the ancillary services they need. She increased her knowledge further by becoming a certified dementia care practitioner.



Jesus 'Roberto' Carrillo-Lopez

Storeroom Clerk

Joyce Eisenberg-Keefer Medical Center, Reseda
41 years in long-term care

"Roberto" has been a dedicated employee at the Los Angeles Jewish Home since he was a teenager and maintains an immaculate storeroom. Not only do state surveyors compliment his work every year, but the campus rabbi expressed amazement over Roberto's thorough preparation for the annual Passover koshering of the kitchen. He has mentored many employees and sets an example for the entire staff.

Eileen Castisimo

Assistant Administrator

Flower Villa, Los Angeles

26 years in long-term care

Starting as a CNA, Eileen Castisimo became an excellent nurse who goes above and beyond for her residents and the company. Kind and caring to her residents, she is a very knowledgeable nurse and an outstanding department head. She mentors staff in achieving excellence in daily operations.





Kanya Crews

CNA

Windsor Manor Rehabilitation Center of Concord

36 years in long-term care

Kanya Crews came to the United States at age 24 "with only one suitcase" and started working at the facility in 1976, in the days when an NA certification was not required. She has seen many changes – all for the better, she says. She enjoys helping others and brings a delightful attitude and smile wherever she goes.

Ivy Ferguson

Medical Records

Century Villa, Inglewood

29 years in long-term care

Starting as a CNA before moving on to medical records, Ivy Ferguson is a phenomenon who gives hope to residents and shares her surplus of energy with residents, staff and visitors. She is truly an outstanding advocate for residents.



Judie Garza

Business Office Manager

Windsor Palms Care Center of Artesia

30 years in long-term care

Judie Garza started her long-term care career as a cheerful, efficient receptionist before moving up to greater responsibilities. As business office manager, she leads a department with an unblemished record of accurate billing, complete collections and exacting financial reporting. With a positive attitude and a big smile, Judie is currently handling the rapid changes that the dual-eligibles project is sending her way.

Haydee Hutton

CNA

Golden Empire Nursing & Rehab Center, Grass Valley

31 years in long-term care

An outstanding CNA, Haydee Hutton is the right hand to her supervisors and knows how to do everything efficiently and with a smile. She mentors new staff, provides one-on-one care for the most challenging residents and has the ability to work with families that need a lot of hand-holding. She takes part in every activity that needs volunteers and is the official photographer for all facility events.



Roberto Jimenez

Lead Cook

Windsor Gardens of Los Angeles

35 years in long-term care

Roberto Jimenez is the most reliable and dependable staff one can ask for. He is dedicated to the residents and caters to their needs and specific requests. No matter the demands, you know you can count on Roberto. It is no wonder that his facility received the prestigious "Best in Class" award from Pinnacles Customer Experience for Dining Service.

Dora Martinez

Medical Records Director

Glendora Grand

38 years in long-term care

Since starting out as a housekeeper, Dora Martinez has devoted her life to long-term care, and she shows no signs of quitting. She is a dedicated and motivational team member, always looking out for residents and fellow employees and lending a helpful hand wherever needed. Dora takes great pride in running a well-organized department. As a result, the facility has been more efficient in keeping medical records.





Martina Martinez

Restorative Nursing Assistant
Grancell Village, Los Angeles Jewish Home, Reseda
26 years in long-term care

Beautiful inside and out, Martina Martinez has been described by a coworker as the “Eighth Wonder of the World.” When it came to learning English as a new immigrant, she considered the best teachers to be her residents. Martina believes it is a gift to work with the elderly and cherishes them. As an RNA, she performs with a spark that gets even the most reluctant residents to participate.

Myrna Mendoza

LVN
Long Beach Care Center
30 years in long-term care

After surviving cancer, Myrna Mendoza returned to the facility ready to get back on the floor. Her compassionate approach and infectious sense of humor make residents and their loved ones feel welcome. With such a zest for life and commitment to quality nursing services, Myrna Mendoza will be providing quality nursing services for years to come.



Betty Rothaus

Director of the Art Program
The Reutlinger Community for Jewish Living, Danville
24 years in long-term care

Betty Rothaus started as a part-time artist in residence, but it was soon realized that what she brought to the residents and their families was priceless. Her hours were increased, and her vision led to the facility’s current program, “Discovering the Artist Within.” An award-winning artist, Betty has lectured widely on integrating art into activity programs for the elderly, and her students’ artwork is featured regularly in the CAHF Art for Life calendar.

Emma Soto

Ward Clerk Technician
Los Angeles Jewish Home Eisenberg Village, Reseda
37 years in long-term care

In addition to being truly dedicated to the residents and staff, Emma Soto is an active participant in facility initiatives such as EMR implementation. She encourages staff to further their professional growth, and both residents and staff look to her for advice and assistance. Her calming demeanor, selfless actions and mentoring set a tone for the entire facility.



Shony Suankaew

Director of Social Services
Windsor Gardens Healthcare Center of the Valley, North Hollywood
23 years in long-term care

Active in the community and widely honored for her professional work, Shony Suankaew once created an activity calendar with crafts that was so special it was featured in a local newspaper. She is frequently asked by other Windsor facilities to assist them when they are having trouble in their social service departments, and she develops special bonds with even the most withdrawn residents.

Ines Vargas

Housekeeper
Shea Family Care La Jolla
26 years in long-term care

Ines Vargas started in the laundry but was moved to housekeeping so she could have greater visibility and opportunity to interact with people. She not only takes extreme pride in her work, keeping the facility spic and span, but emits a positive attitude and happiness every day she works. She has a heart of gold and possesses a radiant glow, evident in her contagious smile and cheerful singing.





Chet Williams

DSD

Granada Rehabilitation and Wellness Center, Eureka

50 years in long-term care

Chet Williams had already been on the job in long-term care as a housekeeper, maintenance man and orderly for 14 years when he sat for the first CNA test in 1978. Later he ran an assisted-living facility with his wife. He became an LVN in 1985 and two years later was recruited as Granada's first MDS nurse. He retired in 2005 but came back for more MDS work before becoming a staff developer.

Melecia 'Mellie' Williams

CNA

Torrance Care Center West

30 years in long-term care

Always enthusiastic to learn, always a team player, always smiling, Melecia "Mellie" Williams is a very inspirational co-worker who is loved by the residents – and she has never called off sick.

