

# 2017 Facility Super Stars



## Matrise Austin

**Director of Staff Development, Vineyard Hills Health Center, Templeton**

**17 years**

Matrise or “Marti” has been an LVN, a nursing supervisor and an infection preventionist among other things during her career but she has blossomed as a staff educator. She is dedicated to the staff and residents as a mentor, cheerleader and sometimes as a “mother.” Her direct, honest approach combined with her sense of humor allows her to connect with her fellow employees. She has earned the respect of her supervisors, colleagues and subordinates and is a true asset to the facility.



## Gonzalo Cabrera

**Maintenance Assistant, Windsor Palms Care Center of Artesia**

**32 years**

A dedicated employee with an excellent attendance record, Gonzalo has been working at Windsor Artesia for 32 years. He is especially good with plumbing and electrical issues in the 296-bed facility, which includes five buildings. He has also helped with several major renovations including installation of facility sprinklers and the laundry dryer replacement project. Gonzalo has a great attitude and is always willing to help.



## Monica Carter

**Medical Records Director, Centinela Grand, Perris**

**30 years**

Monica started her career as a certified nurse assistant, and her CNA background has helped her understand resident needs and the challenges of nursing. Monica has great working relationships with the Director of Nursing and the Interdisciplinary team to make sure audits are completed in a timely manner. As a result, over a 21-year period there have been zero deficiencies on medical records during state and federal surveys.



## Marge DalBianco

**Admissions Director, Creekside Center, Stockton**

**27 years**

Marge has served in a variety of roles in long-term care, from nursing assistant to CNA to recreation director. As admissions and marketing director, she is the first to volunteer for a project or jump in to help someone. Happy, kind and caring, residents, families and her peers love her. Her dedication to the residents carries over into her involvement with the Alzheimer’s Association where she participates year round in walks and fundraising events.



## Princess Deigh

**Restorative Nursing Assistant, Torrance Care Center West**

**22 years**

Princess has spent her entire long-term care career at Torrance Care Center West. She epitomizes the five C’s—commitment, communication, consistency, compassion and caring. She is reliable, she communicates the needs of the residents while showing compassion and she cares for everyone like one big family. Everyone in the facility views Princess as a Super Star.

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## Petra (Petey) Duarte

CNA, Dycora Transitional Health and Living, Manchester

**38 years**

Petey obtained her CNA license in 1979 after 25 years in the same Fresno building. She remains a mentor to new employees and those completing their AIT programs at the center, including CAHF Chair Julianne Williams. She pays special attention to residents who do not have families, bringing them her baked goods, for which she is famous. She is also involved in the community, caring for and providing food for her neighbors as well as taking care of her elderly father at home.



## Joy Fernandes

Restorative Nursing Assistant, Long Beach Care Center

**31 years**

Joy brings a fantastic, optimistic attitude to work every day. She is very passionate about her work and a team player, always offering to help in any way. Joy is loved by residents, family members and colleagues and goes the extra mile to make sure her residents are smiling and feeling satisfied. She is the sunshine in their lives.



## Teresita Gapuz

Staff Nurse/Registered Nurse, Edgemoor DP SNF, Santee

**20 years**

With a perfect attendance record for the past 20 years, Teresita has been a dedicated night shift staff nurse. She has been honored numerous times for delivering outstanding customer service and has been recognized with the prestigious Edgemoor Licensed Nurse of the Year award. She is dedicated to the residents, admired, and respected by staff.



## Maria Gomez

Dietary Assistant, Dycora Transitional Health and Living, Fresno

**37 years**

In 1980, Maria began her career as a dietary assistant and 37 years later, she remains in the same facility in the same position. A dependable worker with an excellent attendance record, Maria always has a big smile on her face and takes time out of her day to stop and talk to the residents. A devoted grandmother, she is a true superstar to her personal as well as her professional family.



## Cynthia Imperial

Director of Education and Infection Control, El Encanto Healthcare, City of Industry

**35 years**

Shortly after arriving in America, Cynthia began her career as a CNA, then advanced to become an LVN and RN. In all of her roles, she has made her mark with her strong work ethic and huge heart. Cynthia is fluent in Mandarin and eight other languages spoken by staff and she has helped El Encanto evolve into a multicultural facility. She makes us better and we are blessed to have the opportunity to work beside her.

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## Ramona Jessop

Activities Director, Harbor View Behavioral Health Center, Long Beach

**15 years**

Mona is instrumental in creating hands-on activities designed to reduce depression and aggression that is sometimes demonstrated. Last month, she organized a carnival for residents and staff that was a huge success, especially the booth called Pie Face, where residents were allowed to pie staff with whipped cream. She receives accolades from all for her commitment to bring fun and activities to our clients.



## Lynette Johnson

RN, Glendora Grand, Glendora

**25 years**

Lynette says she loves the residents and staff like they are her own family. Known in the facility as Mama J, she has a calm approach, soothing voice and gentle Jamaican accent that reminds staff and residents about Bob Marley's famous lyric, "don't worry about a thing." Lynette loves her residents, buys snacks for them and is known by all to be nurturing, supportive and always smiling.



## Sonja Kent

Nurse Educator, California Veterans Home, Shasta

**25+ years**

Sonja started her career as a hairdresser in LA but found her calling in nursing. A registered nurse, she has an entertaining flare as an instructor and has mentored many CNAs and LVNs to help them become RNs. She set up a medical education program at the Redding Veterans Home and was instrumental in bringing a dementia care certification program to the memory care unit in Shasta. She also volunteers to teach others seeking CPR and IV certifications.



## Susan Macango

Director of Nursing, Carlsbad by the Sea, Oceanside

**50 years**

Susan has been a nurse for more than 50 years and continues to actively pursue learning to this day. She is compassionate, caring and strives to be the best nurse she can be. She enjoys training and guiding new nurses to help them achieve their highest potential. A great problem solver with an open door, she holds herself to the highest ethical standards. She is the best Director of Nurses ever!



## Sue Matagi

Licensed Vocational Nurse, Pacific Villa, Long Beach

**49 years**

Sue started her career in nursing in the 1960's and never looked back. She is a team player and never complains. Sue is always on time for work and treats everyone with respect. She has a special place in her heart for the residents and showers them with kindness and love.

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## Fabian Montebello

Assistant Dietary Supervisor, Villa Sienna, Mountain View

**14 years**

Working his way up from dishwasher to a supervisor, Fabian is devoted to making the residents dining experience enjoyable. He goes out of his way to accommodate a special request with a smile on his face. He created several special occasions including Fabian's Pizza, which is a regular on the menu as well as Picnic on the Patio, where residents get to eat in the courtyard. He participates in community fundraising activities to benefit the residents and others. He treats everyone like they are special.



## Maryse Henrietta Luceus Montes

CNA, Rancho Mesa Care Center, Alta Loma

**34 years**

Maryse says, "You need to love what you do, and do what you love and I love my residents and my job." She has a special place in her heart for residents who are on hospice and you can find her at bedside giving special care, talking, holding hands and saying prayers. She is a single mother of two who also takes care of her own mother while working a second job at Loma Linda University Medical Center. She is actively involved with Haitian Club, participating in fundraisers to help young adults in her homeland.



## Daniel Teffera

Assistant Director of Nursing, Century Villa, Ingelwood

**14 years**

Daniel began his career as a licensed vocational nurse. Always approachable and a team player, Daniel shows special care to residents and spends time explaining health and medical situations. He frequently updates families on a resident's condition. Daniel is ready to assist with any request and always has a smile on his face.



## Evadney Thomas

CNA, Flower Villa, Los Angeles

**19 years**

Evadney is an excellent caregiver who has never called in sick. For the past 19 years, she has been bringing her pleasant attitude to work, and even shows up for meetings on her days off. Evadney is a team player who communicates well with charge nurses when a patient has a change of condition. She takes special care when dressing and grooming patients to make them feel their best.



## Darrell Thorne

CNA, Dycora Transitional Health and Living, Sanger

**21 years**

Darrell has been at Dycora since 1996 and is the go-to CNA in the building. Straightforward and compassionate, he continued to work while caring for his ailing wife, who lost her battle with breast cancer. Darrell is a devoted and passionate advocate for residents and other staff members. He is consistently named favorite mentor by CNA students at the facility. Darrell exemplifies what it means to be a true Super Star.