

Facility Super Star Award Winners

The Facility Super Star Awards recognizes employees of CAHF member facilities who have 10 or more years of service and have dedicated their lives to long-term care. The top 20 nominees are selected by CAHF's Board of Directors to receive the award and attend the awards ceremony.

2023



Marilou Anurelio
CNA

Long Beach Care Center, Inc.

When Marilou started working as a CNA, she was uncertain if the position would be right for her. Twenty years later, she's still with Long Beach Care Center, and loves her job! During her two decades, Marilou has earned the reputation for working tirelessly... with a smile on her face and sharing a laugh or two along the way. Residents and colleagues alike praise Marilou's commitment to quality of care and feel a true sense of comfort and compassion when she is nearby.

20 Years in Long-Term Care



Maria Bravo
CNA

Villa Del Rio, Inc.

She has worked her entire career as a CNA at Villa Del Rio. Compassionate, diligent, and humble, Maria is always willing to give of herself to help residents and colleagues. Thanks to this can-do attitude, Maria has been Employee of the Month three times in three years! Now, she's also a super star.

22 Years in Long-Term Care



Eric Celaya
RNA

Mountain Manor Senior Residence

Taking an oath to serve his country, this US Air Force veteran now serves his community by making a positive impact on residents' lives. As a RNA, Eric has a special way of caring for people that instantly earns the trust of residents and their families, as well as the respect of his co-workers. When someone has a difficult day, Eric can be counted on for his eternally positive attitude, and because he always gets the job done. Regardless of the department or task, Eric always helps without uttering a complaint.

35 Years in Long-Term Care



Alejandro Iriate
Cook

New Vista Nursing and Rehab Center

Alex joined New Vista Nursing and Rehab Center's team at just 15 years old, and has spent 21 years at the same facility. During his time as a cook, he has become invaluable in his role, even learning all of the other positions in the kitchen. Always polite, Alex does his best to go above and beyond to fulfill dietary requirements while making residents happy, including organizing the facility's get-together for more than 400 residents and members of the community.

21 Years in Long-Term Care



Pier Jackson
Dir. of Staff Development
Vista Pacifica Convalescent

The heart and soul of Vista Pacifica Convalescent, Pier has been the Director of Staff Development for more than 20 years, and worked in the long-term care sector for 42 years. Her benevolent nature is apparent in the way she exudes passion for residents, and the employees responsible for their care. Pier has won multiple awards including Employee of the Month, and was an integral part of the leadership team responsible for the facility's 2019 AHCA Gold Award.

42 Years in Long-Term Care

2023



Carol King
CNA
Sunnyside Rehab of Fresno

55 Years in Long-Term Care

For 55 years, Carol has proven anything is possible and dedicated her life to working at skilled nursing facilities caring for residents. No surprise, Carol consistently shows up for work, and puts everyone and everything before herself. Honest, devoted, and thoughtful, she turns the day around for anyone who is feeling down. When Sunnyside Rehab of Fresno discussed who should be nominated for the CAHF Super Star Award, 100% of the votes were for Carol.



Juan Lopez
Dietary Aide
Century Villa

25 Years in Long-Term Care

A dependable worker who never calls out from work, he is always on time even while relying on public transportation. Juan starts every day greeting residents and staff with a smile. When he isn't at work, Juan and his family are serving kindness to those who are unhoused in Los Angeles, offering individuals food, beverages and clothing.



Cherryl Martinez
Health Information Dept. Director
Torrance Care Center West

24 Years in Long-Term Care

Ensuring data accuracy, completeness and timeliness of information in each resident's chart is exhilarating for Cherryl. Through it all, she maintains a professional, calm, and helpful disposition. Starting as a Medical Records Assistant, her determination, solid work ethic, and putting residents first have earned her the position of Health Information Department Director.



Dorothy Nacnac
Dietary Cook
Flower Villa

15 Years in Long-Term Care

Full of joy and positivity, Dorothy always finds a way to make the day the best it can be for herself, the staff, and the residents. As the Dietary Cook, she goes out of her way to accommodate food requests to satisfy individual needs. The respect she shows others is apparent in how she consistently shows up on time, is reliable, and is easy to work with no matter the circumstances.



Yolanda Payne
Dir. of Respiratory Therapy
New Vista Post Acute Care Center

20 Years in Long-Term Care

A natural leader, Yolanda worked her way up from Respiratory Therapist to director of the department. Embodying a team player approach, Yolanda resolves challenges by pinpointing the core issues, and guiding the situation toward an acceptable resolution. If she starts a project, you can count on her to follow through until it's done, cheering on her coworkers along the way. Setting the bar, Yolanda is a valuable leader, mentor and educator.

2023



Tuba Rahmani
Dir. of Medical Records
Vista Pacifica Center

25 Years in Long-Term Care

As a department of one, Tuba analyzes all data for reimbursement, facility planning, quality of patient care, risk management, utilization management and research. Despite the demands of her job, Tuba is the first person to offer assistance to other departments without complaint. She also helps people back home in Afghanistan. Tuba raises thousands of dollars to support two orphanages that house up to 16-hundred people...focusing on supporting, and providing opportunities for Muslim girls and women.



Editha Rana
LVN
NorthPointe Healthcare Center

27 Years in Long-Term Care

Since arriving in the US in 1995, Edith has dedicated her life to the skilled nursing sector. Starting out as a nurse's aide, Edith kept making strides becoming a CNA, then a RNA, and now a LVN. Her commitment goes beyond being an Infection Prevention Nurse. Edith has most recently become NorthPointe Health Care Center's staff educator, and received the state's approval for the facility to provide a CNA program.



Kimberlee Reusser-Trautman
Asst. Business Manager
The Fountains Skilled Nursing and Rehab

43 Years in Long-Term Care

Kimberlee started with the parent company of The Fountains Skilled Nursing and Rehab Center in 1980. She started her career in the Accounting Department, progressing to the Billing Department, and eventually the Business Office. Kimberlee has a wealth of knowledge and is a true collaborator, helping all departments with her innovative ideas.



Lourdes Richardson
Unit Assistant
County of San Diego - Edgemoor Hospital

19 Years in Long-Term Care

Dedicated to residents' needs, Lourdes is always willing to do what it takes to make someone's day better. With her kind and diligent approach- even during the COVID pandemic when we were all stressed, Lourdes repeatedly ensures that quality care is the standard, and not the exception.



Lupe Salgado
Laundry
Pacific Villa, Inc.

33 Years in Long-Term Care

Unassuming and reserved by nature, Lupe fills a vital role. She helps residents feel good by looking good, with clean clothing, and by offering a comforting hand and warm smile. During the pandemic when residents were moved around to create specific zones within the facility, Lupe helped the staff with organizing residents' closets because she's so familiar with the items and who they belong to. Thanks to her calm and stable demeanor, and perhaps with a joke along the way, Lupe has mentored new staff members, including the current administrator.

2023



Kongmany Sirixay
Human Resources

34 Years in Long-Term Care

Pacific Haven Subacute & Healthcare Center

Being a “people person” certainly helps when you work in Human Resources. For Kongmany, she truly believes in an open-door policy – making herself available whenever she’s needed, and answering questions 24 hours a day. This ability to make everyone feel special has played a big part in the high employee retention rate at the facility. Even in her current role, she still assists the Purchasing Department where she used to work and is beloved by the vendors. Her desire to help others includes feeding the unhoused population twice a month, and gathering supplies for students before the start of the school year.



Ernestina Soares
Director of Medical Records
English Oaks - Generation Healthcare

38 Years in Long-Term Care

Tina has been a part of the English Oaks family since the facility was built in 1985. Prior to her current role as a Health Information Management Director, Tina held positions as a nursing assistant, unit secretary, and medical records assistant. She is extremely knowledgeable about nursing documentation and the regulations for managing patient files, retainment of patient records, and the privacy rules of HIPAA. Tina has a near perfect attendance record and is committed to the success of her team and to residents.



Lila Southern
Dietary Services Supervisor
Centinela Grand

39 Years in Long-Term Care

Lila grew up in a small Texas town with limited opportunities. After graduating high school, she got a job as a Dietary Aide, and quickly realized the importance of taking care of the elderly and providing nutritional meals for residents. In 2000, Lila moved to California and went to school for her dietary services supervisor certification. For 23 years, she has been a dietary services supervisor, overseeing the operations of the kitchen, ensuring food safety, and doing her best to keep residents satisfied.



Lito Suyat
CNA
Glendora Grand Inc.

20 Years in Long-Term Care

Lito didn’t start out working in long-term care – he found a job in the field when his employer closed. His wife suggested becoming a CNA, and Lito has never turned back. Determined to make a difference, he rarely goes on vacation, and treats each resident like family. Lito is motivated by a moment when a resident’s relative said he thought of him as a brother, inviting him to family events over the years.



Wendy Vaught
RNA/CNA
Folsom Care Center

25 Years in Long-Term Care

Invested in positive resident outcomes, Wendy does what it takes to get things done. Through ownership and accountability, she leads by example and pays attention to details. Going the extra mile, Wendy is aware of her responsibilities and those around her in order for everyone to work in sync and achieve the facility’s overall goals. Knowing people count on her, Wendy shows up and gives her best every day.

2022

Lynnelle Fothergill

LVN
Folsom Care Center,
Folsom

Judith Galope

LVN
Glendora Grand, Glendora

Senait Geletu

CNA
Flower Villa, Los Angeles

Janet Jackson

CNA
Long Beach Care Center,
Long Beach

Mario Hernandez

Maintenance, Laundry &
Housekeeping Supervisor
Villa Del Rio, Bell Gardens

Vanessa Le

Business Office Manager
Sea Cliff Healthcare,
Huntington Beach

Joann Minor

CNA
Pacific Villa, Long Beach

Veena Mukhram

CNA
Generations Healthcare,
Modesto

Corazon Oades

Treatment Nurse/Charge Nurse/LVN
Torrance Care Center West

Evelyn Ongos

Dietary Supervisor
Linda Valley Center, Loma Linda

Divina Otto

LVN
Edgemoor Hospital DP SNF,
Santee

Juana Rivas

CNA
Cupertino Health and Wellness

Laura Rivera

LVN
Centinela Grand, Perris

Aurelia Samiano

CNA
Miracle Mile Healthcare Center,
Los Angeles

Violet Washburn

RNA/CNA
Oroville Hospital Post-Acute Center

2019

Aquilina Abris

Activities Assistant
Glendora Grand, Glendora

Arturo Alcantar

Groundskeeper
Villa Del Rio, Bell Gardens

Lisa Baiza

RNA/CNA
Willow Pass Healthcare Center, Concord

Mirna Bustamante

CNA
Del Rio Gardens Care Center, Bell Gardens

Edward Co

CNA
Torrance Care Center West, Torrance

Lydia Contemprato

Licensed Vocational Nurse
Edgemoor DP SNF, Santee

Glenn Della

RNA/CNA
Long Beach Care Center, Long Beach

Maria "Lucy" Espindola

Dietary Manager
Lone Tree Convalescent Hospital, Antioch

Dora Franklin

Housekeeper
Pacific Gardens Nursing & Rehabilitation
Center, Fresno

Carmen Lopez

CNA
West Hills Health & Rehab, Canoga Park

Jennifer Mares

Licensed Vocational Nurse - Posthumous
Award
Veterans Home of California, Fresno

Maryse Henriette Montes Luceus

CNA
Rancho Mesa Care Center, Alta Loma

Debbie Messie

CNA
Silicon Valley Post Acute, San Jose

Tony Sandoval

CNA
The Lake Post Acute, Visalia

Ledy Semana

CNA Team Leader
Pacific Villa, Long Beach

Becky Serrato

Housekeeper
Centinela Grand, Perris

Cherie Stafsholt

Director of Dietary Services
Healthcare Center of Orange County, Buena
Park

Lorna Sypho

Director of Medical Records/Activities
Flower Villa, Los Angeles

Angel Tiscareno

CNA
Alameda Care Center, Burbank

Kelly Valish

Marketing Director
Marquis Shasta, Redding

Matt Wray

Director of Plant Operations
English Oaks Nursing and Rehabilitation,
Modesto

2018

Sharon Aleo

Director of Nursing
Windsor Post-Acute Center of Arvin,
Bakersfield

Eufemia Bone

Certified Nursing Assistant
Del Rio Gardens Center, Bell Gardens

Peggy Cantrell

Director of Social Services
Dycora Community Care, Fresno

Juana Castaneda

Payroll Clerk
Grant Cuesta Sub-Acute & Rehabilitation,
Mountain View

Arcelia Castillo

Certified Nursing Assistant
Dycora Transitional Health, Manchester

Francisca Cedano

Director of Social Services
Del Rio Convalescent Center, Bell Gardens

Elizabeth Dardon

Clinical Resource
Ensign Services, Mission Viejo

Rosa Guanizo

Certified Nursing Assistant
Glendora Grand, Glendora

Rosalind Hearne

Business Office Manager
Long Beach Care Center, Long Beach

Pluma Hobbs

Health Information Manager
Oroville Hospital Post Acute Center, Oroville

Evelia Meza

Certified Nursing Assistant
Torrance Care Center West, Torrance

Dianne Rice

Director of Business Development
Windsor Palms Care Center of Artesia, Artesia

Soledad Rodriguez

Certified Nursing Assistant
Santa Teresita Skilled Nursing Facility, Duarte

Cecilia Santiago

Cook
Pacific Villa, Long Beach

Monica Santos

Licensed Vocational Nurse
Dycora Transitional Health and Living, Fresno

Tavete Sitafine

Certified Nursing Assistant
Shoreline Care Center, Oxnard

Erlinda Soto

LVN Unit Supervisor
Pacific Coast Manor, Capitola

Patricia "Patti" Terry

Unit Assistant
Edgemoor Hospital DP/SNF, Santee

Elida Velasquez

Certified Nursing Assistant
Flower Villa, Los Angeles

Maribel "Mary" Velazquez

Employee Services/Payroll
English Oaks Nursing & Rehabilitation, Modesto