

2019 FACILITY SUPER STARS



Aquilina Abris
Activities Assistant

34 Years in Long Term Care

Glendora Grand, Glendora

Lina started as a CNA in 1985 and eventually moved to the Activities Department where she has been a fixture for 22 years. Her passions are food and nutrition, sewing, music, arts and crafts and making her residents feel loved. Even at age 78, Lina continues to share her uplifting spirit with residents and staff and can be seen dancing alongside residents in Zumba class. A former Employee of the Year, Lina now works part-time but always gives 100 percent. She loves her residents and the feeling is mutual.



Arturo Alcantar
Groundskeeper

31 Years in Long Term Care

Villa Del Rio, Bell Gardens

Described as an exceptional, first-rate employee, Arturo immigrated to the U.S. in 1988 and began working at (Villa) Del Rio. Arturo has an immense passion for landscaping and says that after more than three decades, he still appreciates growing and cultivating plants. Through his dedication and hard work, he gradually transformed the facility grounds into a wonderful park for residents, families and staff to enjoy.



Lisa Baiza
RNA/CNA

31 Years in Long Term Care

Willow Pass Healthcare Center, Concord

Shortly after arriving in the United States from the Philippines, Lisa trained to become a CNA and began working in 1988. Compassionate and considerate, Lisa is the first person to respond to a call light. Later in her career, she became an RNA and acts as a lead person to resolve issues on the floor. Lisa has survived three ownership changes, 10 DONs and 10 administrators. She remains a stable force at the facility, being named Employee of the Month and Employee of the Year several times over.



Mirna Bustamante
CNA

30 Years in Long Term Care

Del Rio Gardens Care Center, Bell Gardens

Mirna immigrated to the U.S. in 1989 and decided to pursue a career as a certified nursing assistant after getting encouragement from her friends. Mirna is honest, caring, compassionate and dedicated to her work and her residents. She continues to pass her wisdom and knowledge to the newer generation of CNAs. Mirna is the true definition of a Super Star.



Edward Co
CNA

25 Years in Long Term Care

Torrance Care Center West, Torrance

With a gentle nature, strong personality and a passion for caring for residents with behavior challenges, Edward is the perfect fit for the facility's secure unit. Due to his excellent performance, Edward became a team leader and staff look up to him for support, training and guidance. He is consistently helpful, flexible, reliable and supportive of his co-workers and management. A previous Employee of the Month, Torrance Care Center is blessed to have Edward as part of the family.

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Lydia Contemprato
Licensed Vocational Nurse
Edgemoor DP SNF, Santee

26 Years in Long Term Care

Lydia has more than 43 years of nursing service, with 26 years in long term care. She is flexible and willing to help in other areas when the need arises. Lydia always exceeds expectations while providing courteous, high-quality service to patients and family members. Lydia monitors the certified nursing assistants and works closely with them to render excellent care. She is loved by her residents, their family members and her co-workers.



Glenn Della
RNA/CNA
Long Beach Care Center, Long Beach

37 Years in Long Term Care

Glenn is the epitome of a true facility Super Star. He comes to work every day offering to help wherever needed without looking for reward or recognition. He remains as vibrant and passionate about caring for residents as the first day he started. Glenn is also mentoring the next generation to carry out their calling to help the elderly with heart and humility. In his off time, Glenn helps raise money for education materials for under-privileged school students in the Philippines.



Maria "Lucy" Espindola
Dietary Manager
Lone Tree Convalescent Hospital, Antioch

36 Years in Long Term Care

From dietary aide to cook to dietary manager, Lucy Espindola has worked at Lone Tree Convalescent Hospital during her entire 36-year career. Lucy and her staff prepare most of the facility meals from scratch, receiving many compliments from residents. She also keeps residents happy with special meal requests and works side-by-side with her staff to create an atmosphere of mutual respect. Lucy won a Food Safety Excellence award from Contra Costa County last year and has had three consecutive, deficiency-free surveys in the food and nutrition services category.



Dora Franklin
Housekeeper
Pacific Gardens Nursing & Rehabilitation Center, Fresno

43 Years in Long Term Care

When she was young and just new to California, Dora was a seasonal farm worker, but began working part time for Pacific Gardens in 1976. After 43 years on the job, she says she still likes to interact with the residents and is always learning something from them. She is dependable, gets the job done, and is beloved by the staff and residents.



Carmen Lopez
CNA
West Hills Health & Rehab, Canoga Park

34 Years in Long Term Care

Carmen came to the United States from El Salvador for a better life. She worked full-time with many double shifts to make ends meet. Devoted to their five children, Carmen worked day shift and her husband worked nights so they could care for their children – all of which are college graduates. Her work ethic, loving personality and kindness toward residents makes her more than an outstanding CNA. She is an outstanding human being. Carmen's struggle and life story is an inspiration to all.

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Maryse Henriette Montes Luceus
CNA

35 Years in Long Term Care

Rancho Mesa Care Center, Alta Loma

Maryse is a night shift CNA who is hard-working, dedicated to her patients and loves her job. After a 35-year career, she remains very detail-oriented and takes time to care for her patients. Maryse takes pride in her work and often goes above-and-beyond. She takes on other roles outside of her job title to be helpful to others.



Debbie Messie
CNA

26 Years in Long Term Care

Silicon Valley Post Acute, San Jose

Debbie has positive interactions with residents and their families on a daily basis. A tireless worker with an excellent attendance record, Debbie demonstrates empathy, compassion and love while at work. During her off hours, she volunteers and enjoys taking her dogs to visit senior citizens.



Tony Sandoval
CNA

29 Years in Long Term Care

The Lake Post Acute, Visalia

Tony is loved by his residents and their families. They often share that when Tony is in the building, everything is perfect. He is also popular among his fellow co-workers. Tony is dedicated to the care of each resident; his rooms are immaculate and his smile is infectious. During his tenure, he has been Employee of the Month many times over. He was specifically chosen to help with a birthday trip to the coast for a 105 year-old resident who said Tony was her favorite CNA.



Ledy Semana
CNA Team Leader

27 Years in Long Term Care

Pacific Villa, Long Beach

An outstanding athlete as a youth, Ledy represented the Philippines in competitions in Malaysia and the United States. After visiting here, Ledy realized that she wanted to live in America. She got married and obtained her CNA certificate in 1992 and has worked as a CNA ever since. Ledy has a positive attitude and is a team leader for the facility CNAs. She has a contagious smile, rarely takes a day off and is devoted to her patients.



Becky Serrato
Housekeeper

35 Years in Long Term Care

Centinela Grand, Perris

Becky started working in the healthcare profession in Texas before moving to California. She does her job with a smile on her face and shows compassion and love for the residents because as she says, "it's their home." She enjoys coming to work every day to interact with the residents and all of her co-workers at Centinela Grand. Everyday heroes not only wear capes, they are seen with brooms as well, making sure the facility is sparkling clean and residents are comfortable in their home sweet home.

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

30 Years in Long Term Care

Cherie has excelled as a dietary supervisor for more than 30 years with outstanding survey outcomes in her department. She knows every one of her residents and their dietary preferences. Each day, her department works to ensure the delivery of quality food, snacks and dietary services. Cherie is always willing to go to other facilities to share her wisdom. Recognized more than once as Employee of the Year, Cherie gets compliments from CDPH about the cleanliness and performance of her department.



Lorna Sypho
Director of Medical Records/Activities
Flower Villa, Los Angeles

29 Years in Long Term Care

Lorna started working in long term care in the activities department, and then moved to another facility to serve as director of medical records. After a couple of career moves, she began working at Flower Villa where she directs both activities and the medical records department. Lorna is a loyal, team player. She demonstrates a lot of flexibility and always treats her residents with patience and care.



Angel Tiscareno
CNA
Alameda Care Center, Burbank

44 Years in Long Term Care

Angel Tiscareno has touched the lives of countless patients during his 44-year career as a certified nursing assistant. His most memorable incident occurred when the Alameda Care Center celebrated Angel's 30-year anniversary and during the party, he was able to save the life of a resident who was choking by using a Heimlich maneuver. Afterwards they developed a life-long friendship. Angel says he loves his residents and feels rewarded when they tell him they love him back.



Kelly Valish
Marketing Director
Marquis Shasta, Redding

39 Years in Long Term Care

With a cheerful and can-do attitude, Kelly is a positive force at the facility and in the community. She began working at Marquis Shasta after graduating from high school and has become an exceptional advocate for the facility and the profession. During her career, she has served as a CNA, activity director, unit secretary, admission coordinator and now marketing director. She has been honored as an Employee of the Year. Kelly is the 2019 event coordinator for the Redding Walk to End Alzheimer's and is active in many community organizations.



Matt Wray
Director of Plant Operations
English Oaks Nursing and Rehabilitation, Modesto

25 Years in Long Term Care

Matt leads by example and has an invaluable skill set in plant and facility operations. He is an accomplished professional who provides his employees with the support they need to be successful. He steps up when needed and has been instrumental in obtaining excellent surveys. Matt is a faithful steward of our resources. His dedication to providing care and services to our residents and families makes him a true servant leader.

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Jennifer Mares
Licensed Vocational Nurse
Veterans Home of California, Fresno

40 Years in Long Term Care
Posthumous Award



Jennifer's 40 plus years in long term care included positions as a CNA, LVN and director of staff development at various facilities in the Central Valley. She joined the Fresno Veterans Home in 2014 where she was loved by her residents and co-workers alike and described as the rock that staff and residents relied on for direction and quality care. She knew the ins-and-outs of skilled nursing, was easy to talk to and always searching for ways to help others. The sudden loss of Jennifer in July has left a void in the hearts of Veterans, families and staff, but she will forever live on in their memories.

2019 NURSE OF THE YEAR



Susan Yeranyan
Ararat Nursing Facility, Mission Hills

Susan Yeranyan, RN, began her career in Armenia, as a biochemist with a degree from Yerevan State University. After migrating to the United States, she pursued her passion for healthcare by starting a career at Ararat Nursing Facility (ANF) as a certified nursing assistant. During her 25 years of employment at ANF, Susan climbed the career ladder and achieved her American Dream after her promotion to Director of Clinical Services in 2007. Susan is also a Certified Dementia Practitioner. She was the ANF Employee of the Year in 1996 and was recognized by the International Nurses Association for her excellence in nursing in 2019.

Under her leadership, Ararat Nursing Facility has consistently remained a Five-Star facility. It received the AHCA/NCAL Bronze and Silver Quality Awards in 2017 and 2018, respectively. The facility plans to apply for Gold level recognition in 2020.

Susan is a true nurse, at heart and in practice. She loves touching and changing people's lives, being hands on, as well as leading and educating the next generation of nurses.