

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.



Melanie Gonzalez
Life Enrichment & Activities Director
California Armenian Home

13 Years in Long-Term Care

Melanie is a true phenom whose contagious laughter, fearless creativity, and tireless dedication have transformed activities into unforgettable experiences. Whether planning Shark Month, leading karaoke, or inspiring lifelong learning, she ensures every day brings joy, connection, and purpose for residents. A natural leader, she empowers her team, uplifts colleagues, and inspires everyone around her.



Amy Mandon
MDS Coordinator
Ukiah Post Acute

15 Years in Long-Term Care

Amy is the very definition of a Super Star. She began as a CNA more than 15 years ago, and has never stopped growing, serving, and showing up. She leads with humility, teaches without judgment, and has become the trusted steady hand for staff, residents, and families alike. Beyond Ukiah Post-Acute, Amy serves as Northern California's MDS Cluster Leader, supporting multiple facilities with her guidance and expertise.



Brenda Sarmiento
LVN/Case Manager
Escondido Post Acute

23 Years in Long-Term Care

For 23 years, Brenda has been the heart of Escondido Post Acute. She began as a charge nurse, grew into leadership, and today excels as a LVN Case Manager. She's created a discharge process that keeps residents safe, supported, and thriving. Now, a proud grandmother, her legacy shines in her family and in the countless nurses and CNAs she has mentored. Brenda personifies skill, dedication, and passion for providing quality care.



Sarah Udell
Admissions Director
Fairfield Post Acute Rehab

24 Years in Long-Term Care

Sarah is truly the essence of Fairfield Post Acute Rehab. She started as a volunteer, earned her CNA license in 2002, and over the course of 24 years, has grown through nearly every role—from CNA to Admissions Director. Sarah's journey is one of dedication, compassion, and excellence. Beyond her career, she exudes commitment to both family and profession, and her dream of becoming an Administrator reflects her lifelong passion for care.



Tiffany Mathews
Transportation Coordinator/Mental Health Worker
Vista Pacifica Center

25 Years in Long-Term Care

Tiffany is the heart and soul of service—at work, in her church, and in her community. She's cared for those with mental illness and disabilities... building trust through compassion, advocacy, and faith. As a CNA, Mental Health Worker, and Transportation Coordinator, she connects with residents on the deepest level, offering comfort and encouragement when they need it most. Beyond the facility, Tiffany cooks meals and feeds the hungry.



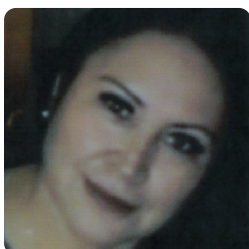
Emelinda Pascua

CNA

Long Beach Care Center

25 Years in Long-Term Care

Since becoming a CNA in 1999, Emelinda has devoted more than 25 years to the residents of Long Beach Care Center. Admired as “Miss Congeniality,” she treats every resident like family, always beginning and ending her work with a smile. A problem-solver, a role model, and a true source of comfort, she represents what it means to be involved in long-term care.



Maria Cervantes

CNA

Centinela Grand

26 Years in Long-Term Care

Starting her career in housekeeping at Pleasant Care Center in Riverside, Maria has been a CNA for more than two decades at Centinela Grand. When asked why she chose a career in long-term care, she shared, “I like to see my patients happy.” Maria approaches even the most challenging moments with patience and communication, offering comfort through conversation.



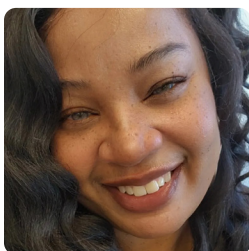
Joyce Gray

CNA

Pacific Villa, Inc.

26 Years in Long-Term Care

For 26 years, Joyce has dedicated her life to long-term care, 21 of them being at Pacific Villa. She began as a Med Tech, earned her CNA, and has since served in nearly every role with excellence, such as Team Lead, RNA, Central Supply, Activities, even DSD assistant. Joyce is the steady hand and strong voice for her fellow CNAs, respected by staff and leadership alike. A true veteran of care, Joyce epitomizes service, strength, and compassion.



Royshaun Kimbrough

Business Office Manager

Torrance Care Center West, Inc.

26 Years in Long-Term Care

Royshaun is a cornerstone of Torrance Care Center West growing from activity assistant to business office manager with dedication, professionalism, and grace. She’s known for her deep knowledge, reliability, and willingness to support residents, families, and staff alike. Besides her career, she gives back through food drives, health clinics, scholarships with the LADMC Foundation, and volunteers at local events in Torrance. Royshaun’s work ethic, compassion, and leadership make a lasting impact on everyone.



Catalina Chowdhury

Dietary Supervisor

Century Villa, Inc.

27 Years in Long-Term Care

For her entire career in the long-term care sector, Catalina has dedicated herself as a Dietary Service Supervisor. A graduate in nutrition and dietetics, she ensures every meal is safe, nourishing, and still delicious. Known for her leadership, positivity, and compassion, Catalina treats residents and staff like family. Beyond work, she is deeply involved in her church, leads fundraising and outreach, and even travels back home to the Philippines for missionary work feeding those in need.



Rosario Saldana
CNA

27 Years in Long-Term Care

Bayside Care Center – Compass Health, Inc.

A CNA with unmatched dedication, Rosario, or “Rosie” as she’s known, brings joy and comfort to every resident she interacts with. Rosie is the caregiver who never says “no,” the mentor who guides new CNAs with patience, and the teammate who always shows up with a smile. Her resilience, warmth, and commitment make her not just exceptional, but unforgettable.



Eny Singh
Dietary Supervisor
Modesto Post Acute

28 Years in Long-Term Care

Eny is the backbone of Modesto Post Acute’s dietary team. Starting as a part-time dishwasher, she rose to Dietary Manager, leading with loyalty, expertise, and compassion. Eny knows every resident personally and is a trusted voice on the care team. If help is needed, she steps in without hesitation, even covering full shifts herself. Beyond the facility, Eny serves her Sikh Temple, raising funds for children’s hospitals and charities. Her dedication makes her truly a rare and remarkable person.



Liberty Lacap
LVN/Treatment Nurse
Atlantic Memorial Healthcare Center

30 Years in Long-Term Care

Liberty’s journey in care began as a CNA in 1995. For 25 years at Atlantic Memorial, she has grown from LVN to wound care specialist, earning multiple awards for her skill, dedication, and passion for healing. Her expertise has kept the facility free of wound care deficiencies, and her leadership extends to training staff and supporting sister facilities. Liberty was also the first to volunteer for the COVID Red Unit, showing courage and compassion during challenging times.



Rene Sgheiza
LVN
Folsom Care Center

30 Years in Long-Term Care

As a nurse with more than 30 years of experience, and the last seven at Folsom Care Center, Rene has served as both DSD and IP Nurse. She provides steady leadership and support to staff and residents alike. In 2020, during a serious COVID outbreak, Rene stepped up with remarkable courage, coordinating training, communication, and care that helped guide the facility through uncharted territory. Her professionalism, leadership and resilience leave an indelible impact on everyone.



Amanda Crosby
LVN
Villa Del Rio, Inc.

32 Years in Long-Term Care

Amanda is the anchor of the night shift. For more than 30 years as a LVN, she has worked the demanding overnight hours with unmatched reliability and positivity. Amanda is the calm presence when residents can’t sleep, the steady hand in moments of confusion, and the trusted teammate who’s always willing to help. The phrase “calling out sick” is simply not in her vocabulary, one of the many reasons why she is known for providing the highest level of care.



Vilma Valencia

33 Years in Long-Term Care

RNA

Windsor County Drive Care Center

Vilma combines professional excellence with heartfelt compassion. Since 1992, she has helped countless residents recover and return home. Along the way, Vilma has advanced her skills with RNA certification, strengthening both her knowledge and her impact. Beyond her career, Vilma devotes time to her church and community service, delivering food to those in need. Her story is one of purpose, growth, and unwavering dedication.



Maria Cecilia Garcia

37 Years in Long-Term Care

Dietary Cook

Flower Villa, Inc.

Arriving in the United States in 1984, Maria had a dream of building a better future for herself and her family. Just four years later, she started her journey in long-term care as a dietary aide. For the past 37 years, she has dedicated herself to nourishing others with a smile. Promoted to dietary cook in 2010, Maria brings warmth, excellence, and joy to every meal she prepares. A true team player, she treats residents and colleagues like family.



Lissette Chavira

40 Years in Long-Term Care

Payroll & Trust Account

Vista Pacifica Enterprises, Inc.

Lissette's career has been defined by dedication, accuracy, and care. From the early days of dot-matrix payroll to today's digital systems, she has processed nearly one-thousand payrolls with unwavering precision. Just as importantly, she manages resident trust accounts with accuracy and kindness, making the banking process for residents consistently smooth and efficient. A devoted colleague, mother and community member, she is a true role model.



Patricia Fernandez

40 Years in Long-Term Care

CNA & RNA

North Point Healthcare & Wellness Centre

Patricia's career as a CNA and RNA is nothing short of extraordinary. For decades, she has dedicated herself to helping residents maintain strength, dignity, and independence with a compassionate spirit. Known for mentoring new staff, stepping in without hesitation, and connecting deeply with residents and their family, Patricia embodies true commitment. With a record of perfect attendance and unwavering devotion, she has left a lasting mark of excellence.

Elizabeth Calascan
CNA
Long Beach Care Center, Inc

Elmarie Cosmiano
CNA
Centinela Grand, Inc.

Lilia Devera
LVN
Fairmont Rehabilitation

Nick Duran
Plant Operations Manager/Maintenance Supervisor
Pacific Haven Subacute & Healthcare Center

Belinda Fernandez
Dir. of Staff Development, Infection Prevention, LVN/
LPN, and Staffing Coordinator
Yuba City Post-Acute of PACS

Maria Garcia
CNA
San Pablo Healthcare & Wellness Center

Nasly Gloria Gonzales
Activities Asst./CNA
Studebaker Healthcare Center

Cherryl Jack
CNA
The Fountains Skilled Nursing

Dina Joseph
Dietary Supervisor
Mission Park Healthcare Center/PacificCare Health
Management

Maribel Lee
Lead CNA
California Home for the Aged

Cynthia Medina
Charge Nurse/Desk Nurse
Watsonville Post Acute Center

Nellie Molina
Personal Care Supervisor
Palm Village Retirement Community

Agueda Pacheco-Ledezma
CNA
Glendora Grand Inc.

Lucille Quiroz
Dir. of Medical Records
Villa Del Rio

Juanita Ramos
LVN
Pacific Villa, Inc.

Maria Serpa
CNA
Sunnyside Rehab of Fresno

Jose Turcios
Housekeeper
Flower Villa, Inc.

Dorcas Uwakwe
CNA
Century Villa

Maria Graciela Valencia
Payroll Administrator/Accounts Payable Clerk
Watsonville Nursing Center

Victor Zamorano
Activity Assistant
Villa Siena

Marilou Anurelio

Certified Nursing Assistant
Long Beach Care Center, Inc.

Maria Bravo

Certified Nursing Assistant
Villa Del Rio, Inc.

Eric Celaya

Restorative Nursing Assistant
Mountain Manor Senior Residence

Alejandro Iriate

Cook
New Vista Nursing and Rehab Center

Pier Jackson

Dir. of Staff Development
Vista Pacifica Convalescent

Carol King

Certified Nursing Assistant
Sunnyside Rehab of Fresno

Juan Lopez

Dietary Aide
Century Villa

Cherryl Martinez

Health Information Dept. Director
Torrance Care Center West

Dorothy Nanac

Dietary Cook
Flower Villa

Yolanda Payne

Dir. of Respiratory Therapy
New Vista Post Acute Care Center

Tuba Rahmani

Dir. of Medical Records
Vista Pacifica Center

Editha Rana

Licensed Vocational Nurse
NorthPointe Healthcare Center

Kimberlee Reusser-Trautman

Asst. Business Manager
The Fountains Skilled Nursing and Rehab

Lourdes Richardson

Unit Assistant
County of San Diego - Edgemoor Hospital

Lupe Salgado

Laundry
Pacific Villa, Inc.

Kongmany Sirixay

Human Resources
Pacific Haven Subacute & Healthcare Center

Ernestina Soares

Director of Medical Records
English Oaks - Generation Healthcare

Lila Southern

Dietary Services Supervisor
Centinela Grand

Lito Suyat

Certified Nursing Assistant
Glendora Grand Inc.

Wendy Vaught

RNA/CNA
Folsom Care Center

Lynnelle Fothergill

LVN
Folsom Care Center, Folsom

Judith Galope

LVN
Glendora Grand, Glendora

Senait Geletu

CNA
Flower Villa, Los Angeles

Mario Hernandez

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

Janet Jackson

CNA
Long Beach Care Center,
Long Beach

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

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

Maryse Henriette Montes Luceus

CNA
Rancho Mesa Care Center, Alta Loma

Jennifer Mares

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

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