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.

CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION
CAHF
OF HEALTH FACILITIES

2026



Harpreet Kaur

22 Years in Long-Term Care

Infection Preventionist

North Point Healthcare and Wellness Centre

After immigrating to the United States from India at 19, Harpreet began her healthcare career as a CNA and went on to earn her LVN license, overcoming language and cultural barriers along the way. For nearly two decades, she has been a trusted leader in long-term care, taking on roles in infection prevention, staff education, family meetings, scheduling, and mentoring. During COVID-19, she helped guide her team through unprecedented challenges. Her impact is felt wherever she goes.



Jovita Santos

23 Years in Long-Term Care

CNA

Glendora Grand, Inc.

Originally from the Philippines, Jovita moved to Israel, where she worked as a caregiver for five years before coming to the United States. She later completed a CNA training program and began her career in long-term care. Her philosophy is simple: “Treat residents like your own family.” She lives that philosophy every day through patience, kindness, respect, and person-centered care. Jovita’s ability to manage her time, support coworkers, and ensure attentive care has earned her Employee of the Month recognition.



Sabrina Baijan

24 Years in Long-Term Care

Director of Staff Development

Modesto Post Acute Center

Sabrina has built an impressive career while continually finding ways to grow and support those around her. After working as an LVN, she completed her RN program this past year. As a Director of Staff Development, she is a trusted resource for CNAs and staff, providing thorough training, maintaining impeccable records, and ensuring important requirements are met. Her pursuit of excellence and willingness to go the extra mile have made a lasting impact on her facility, staff, and community.



Tahera Lemar

25 Years in Long-Term Care

Food Service Function Coordinator

Baywood Court

Starting in wait staff, Tahera advanced to Food Service Function Coordinator, where her warmth, attentiveness, and genuine hospitality have become hallmarks of her work. She goes out of her way to accommodate residents’ requests, create memorable events, and work across departments to enhance the resident experience. Her contributions have earned her Employee of the Month and Baywood Court’s Extraordinary Impressions Quarterly Star Award.



Alberta Nyarko

25 Years in Long-Term Care

CNA

Long Beach Care Center

Alberta brought with her a strong work ethic shaped by a challenging childhood in Ghana. Today, she brings that same resilience and compassion to her work at Long Beach Care Center, where she has cared for residents for more than 25 years. Affectionately known as “Sister,” Alberta also works long shifts to support her three daughters and sends money to family in Ghana for food, healthcare, and education. She has been recognized as Employee of the Month and for Best Attendance.

2026



Vicky Chan

26 Years in Long-Term Care

CNA

Pacific Villa

Arriving in the United States from the Philippines with her two-year-old daughter, Vicky faced the challenge of starting over in a new country. She worked at Wendy's before returning to school to pursue a career in healthcare. For the past 26 years, Vicky has served as a CNA, earning the trust of residents and colleagues through her patience, reliability, and genuine respect for those in her care. She treats residents like family and is always willing to support her team.



JC Combs

27 Years in Long-Term Care

CNA

Flower Villa, Inc.

JC's path to healthcare began with caring for his elderly grandfather, an experience that inspired him to become a CNA in 1999. Now, at Flower Villa, he has brought that same compassion to residents, treating them and his coworkers like family. JC is also a mentor to new CNAs, sharing his experience and knowledge to help the next generation of caregivers succeed. His contributions have earned him multiple Employee of the Month nominations.



Woo Hong

27 Years in Long-Term Care

MDS Coordinator

Carmel Hills Care Center

In 1999, she began working at what would become Carmel Hills Care Center—and 27 years later, it remains the only facility she has known. Starting as a floor nurse, Woo went on to master the complex role of MDS Coordinator, famously reading the RAI manual multiple times to ensure she understood every detail. Her meticulous work has helped keep assessments accurate and timely while holding the team accountable for both quality care and proper documentation.



Hazel Montalbo

28 Years in Long-Term Care

LVN

Alvarado Care Center

For 28 years, Hazel has served as an LVN at the same facility, becoming a trusted and familiar presence for residents, families, and coworkers. She is known for her reliability, kindness, and willingness to help wherever needed, while approaching each day with patience and a positive attitude. Hazel's long tenure has allowed her to build meaningful relationships and provide consistency to those in her care.



Horacio Minjares Ramos

30 Years in Long-Term Care

CNA

Centinela Grand, Inc.

He is known for helping coworkers, stepping in wherever needed, and supporting daily operations, including driving residents to appointments. Horacio believes nurses should care for every resident, not just those assigned to them. His work has earned Employee of the Month honors and recognition for communication and compassionate care, punctuality and perfect attendance, and infection prevention and control.

2026



Xing Fu

31 Years in Long-Term Care

Vice President of Clinical Services

North American Client Services, Inc.

With 17 years as a Director of Nursing Services and extensive clinical expertise, she has trained staff, mentored nursing students, and educated physicians on skilled nursing regulations and best practices. Today, Xing helps facilities improve Star Ratings and quality measures, reduce deficiencies, and strengthen clinical outcomes. She is also highly skilled in mock surveys, chart reviews, EHR documentation, and emergency preparedness.



Veronica Rodriguez

31 Years in Long-Term Care

Staff Developer

North Point Healthcare and Wellness Centre

Veronica began her healthcare career as a CNA in 1995, and earned her LVN license in 2006 before moving into nursing leadership. After serving as an ADON, Nursing Supervisor, MDS Coordinator, and Infection Preventionist, she found her calling as a Director of Staff Development. Today, she leads orientation, competencies, skills fairs, and hands-on training. Through education, mentorship, and community service, Veronica continues to strengthen the lives of those around her.



Susan Wirt

32 Years in Long-Term Care

Central Supply Coordinator

California Armenian Home

With more than 32 years in long-term care, she has worked in dietary services, purchasing, central supply, and countless areas in between. Today, she manages inventory and budgets while helping departments find efficiencies and control costs. She also makes a point of remembering every coworker's birthday and favorite beverage. From keeping the campus running smoothly to making people feel valued, Susan has made a difference in ways both big and small.



Maria Esperanza Cruz

35 Years in Long-Term Care

CNA

Torrance Care Center West Inc.

Maria joined the facility in 1991 and, with support from her employer, pursued her CNA certification, becoming a caregiver in 2000. Since then, she has balanced two full-time CNA positions for more than 20 years while raising her two sons after the loss of her husband. Through it all, residents and families have come to rely on her patience, compassion, and calming presence, while coworkers appreciate her positivity and willingness to help.



Maria Barraza

36 Years in Long-Term Care

CNA

Watsonville Post Acute Center

For 36 years, Maria has cared for the residents of Watsonville Post Acute Center—the only facility where she has worked as a CNA. Known for her quiet nature and thoughtful approach, she takes time to learn each resident's needs and routines, helping make the transition to skilled nursing less intimidating. Families trust her because she listens carefully and follows through. Maria is also called upon to train and guide new CNAs, sharing her experience with the next generation of caregivers.

2026



Juan Manuel Del Real

39 Years in Long-Term Care

Environmental Services Supervisor

Broadway Healthcare Center

Known as “El Jefe” Juan has spent 39 years keeping Broadway Healthcare Center running smoothly, including 30 years as its Environmental Services Supervisor. A skilled problem-solver, he oversees maintenance, housekeeping, and laundry, often taking on projects well beyond his job description. When the facility needed a canopy for residents’ wheelchairs, Juan built it himself in less than a week, complete with a brick foundation.



Angela Beeson

41 Years in Long-Term Care

Director of Staff Development

Granada Rehabilitation and Wellness Center

Beginning her career as a CNA in 1985, Angela has spent 41 years building her knowledge, skills, and leadership in long-term care. She became an LVN and RN, taking on roles as a Treatment Nurse, MDS Coordinator, and Assistant Director of Nursing along the way. Her influence also reaches into the broader community through her involvement with Eureka City Schools, where she helps address the need for CNA education and training.



Meg Gelvezon

42 Years in Long-Term Care

Chief Regulatory Officer

North American Health Care Services

Forty-two years in long-term care have given Meg an extraordinary depth of knowledge, reflected in the many professional credentials she has earned throughout her career including BSN, RN, and NHA, to name a few. What sets her apart is how generously she shares that knowledge. She has educated hundreds of individuals, mentored colleagues, and continually looked for ways to improve the quality of care.



Imelda Wilson

46 Years in Long-Term Care

LVN

Watsonville Nursing Center

For her entire career in long-term care, Imelda has been a dependable presence for residents and staff at Watsonville Nursing Center. She started as a CNA before becoming an LVN. Although she has served as an MDS Nurse and Assistant Director of Nursing, Imelda chose to return to direct care as a Charge Nurse because that is where her passion lies. Her organized approach, knowledge, and reliability make her a valued resource for residents and nurses alike.



Patricia Reis

50 Years in Long-Term Care

Activities Director

Eureka Rehabilitation and Wellness Center

Every resident has a story, and Patricia believes everyone deserves to be known, respected, and celebrated. As Activities Director at Eureka Rehabilitation and Wellness Center, she has spent 50 years creating a sense of community while teaching those around her the importance of person-centered care. Patricia notices the details others might miss—when a resident needs help getting ready, a little extra attention, or simply someone willing to listen.

2025

Maria Cervantes
CNA
Centinela Grand

Lissette Chavira
Payroll & Trust Account
Vista Pacifica Enterprises, Inc.

Catalina Chowdhury
Dietary Supervisor
Century Villa, Inc.

Amanda Crosby
LVN
Villa Del Rio, Inc.

Patricia Fernandez
CNA & RNA
North Point Healthcare & Wellness Centre

Maria Cecilia Garcia
Dietary Cook
Flower Villa, Inc.

Melanie Gonzalez
Life Enrichment & Activities Director
California Armenian Home

Joyce Gray
CNA
Pacific Villa, Inc.

Royshaun Kimbrough
Business Office Manager
Torrance Care Center West, Inc.

Liberty Lacap
LVN/Treatment Nurse
Atlantic Memorial Healthcare Center

Amy Mandon
MDS Coordinator
Ukiah Post Acute

Tiffany Mathews
Transportation Coordinator/Mental Health Worker
Vista Pacifica Center

Emelinda Pascua
CNA
Long Beach Care Center

Rosario Saldana
CNA
Bayside Care Center – Compass Health, Inc.

Brenda Sarmiento
LVN/Case Manager
Escondido Post Acute

Rene Sgheiza
LVN
Folsom Care Center

Eny Singh
Dietary Supervisor
Modesto Post Acute

Sarah Udell
Admissions Director
Fairfield Post Acute Rehab

Vilma Valencia
RNA
Windsor County Drive Care Center

2024

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/PacifiCare 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

2023

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 Infromation 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

2020

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 SupervisorVilla 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

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

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