

Erin Kramer



I started working with older adults as a volunteer about twenty years ago as a young kid. I enjoyed assisting with activities and visiting with residents at my hometown nursing home. My older sister worked as a Nursing Assistant and then became a LPN. She encouraged me to take the Nursing Assistant class. I became a NAR and later a TMA. I have worked at the Waconia Good Samaritan Center for eight years as a Nursing Assistant in the Nursing Home and as a Universal Worker in the Assisted Living. I have always enjoyed providing services for older adults. I entered the USD program to become a RN. I continued to work full-time while taking classes part-time and will graduate in May 2011.

I plan to always work within the older adult services profession. When I am a RN I hope to continue to work at the Waconia Good Samaritan Center

I hope to impact the profession by bringing technology into the healthcare field, especially older adult services. Waconia Good Samaritan is working on pilot programs which incorporate technology with senior services. I am very interested in the programs and would like to contribute to the progression. I use the latest technology through my on-line learning through USD. I see a lot of potential ways that computers and other technology can be used to help older adults stay in their homes, keep track of their medicines and medical cares, and to alert professionals or family members when needed.

One specific example of when I positively impacted someone through my care and services was when I worked over this past Memorial Day weekend. One of my clients at the Assisted Living shared with me how disappointed she was that she felt stuck in her apartment over the holiday weekend. She told me that this would be her first year that she misses all of the Memorial Day celebrations at the City Park. I visited with her and listened to her stories about previous holidays and her special memories of Memorial Day weekends. I told her that I would be working all weekend and on Memorial Day, so we would be 'stuck' together all weekend. I visited and shared a little humor with her each of the three days over the weekend. She was grateful to me for making the long weekend bearable even though she couldn't be at the City Park. Before this past Fourth of July weekend the same client told me that she had wished the same nice girl would be stuck working again over the holiday weekend. By just listening and spending a little time out of my busy work day I made a difference in my client's life.