

Marilyn Andresen



Why did you choose older adult services as a career?

As I gained experience working with older adults, I became impassioned with creating a quality life including enriching their experiences with quality care. This includes emotionally, as well as physically. At the center of my ethics I have a deep respect for the people who have 'walked the walk'.

What do you want to do with your life within the older adult services profession?

I would like to 'earn my stripes' as a new nurse and gather some floor experience as I work my way through the ranks. This December I am expecting to take my boards for LPN. I would like to work as a Licensed Practical Nurse until I complete my degree as a Registered Nurse. I plan on continuing working in long term care as a Registered Nurse. My long-term goal is to incorporate my experience into a management position as a director of nursing in long term care or assisted living. The idea of pursuing a nursing education position with a focus on the older population has crossed my mind as well.

How do I hope to impact the profession?

I hope to impact the profession by putting 110% effort into being the best nurse possible, in whatever capacity that may include at the time... I am evolving as I gain knowledge and experience; I hope to positively impact whomever I am caring for, consistently. I value the person; therefore I strive very hard to provide for them and their needs.

Provide a specific example of when you positively impacted someone through the care or services you provided.

Recently I noticed a lady I was caring for was in need of a 'hair set'. Her economic status had changed and she could no longer afford \$20.00 to have her hair set each week. Due to this change, her personality seemed to be effected. The saying "you only feel as good as you look" came to my mind. After noticing her curlers on her dresser, I offered to set her hair following her whirlpool on Saturday night. Although I am not a professional hairstylist, I have set hair from time to time as a C.N.A. As she watched me fold the hair over the curler, a broad smile danced on her face. Her expression was priceless. The following day, so many people complimented her on her hair, she seemed to get more spry, overnight. Now it's a tradition to set her hair after her whirlpool every Saturday.