

Robyn Hendrickson



Why did you choose older adult services as a career?

I didn't really choose the career in older adult services, it just kind of came to me. I was 16 and in need of a job. I was starting to think that a career in nursing would be very interesting, and so my mom told me that I should get a job as a nursing assistant to see if nursing might be something that I would like. I took the class and thought I would give it a try. The Foley Nursing Center was only a couple of blocks away from school and so I applied there. Once I started I knew that this was something that I could definitely keep on doing, and I have for the past five years. I feel that working with older adults is so rewarding in its self.

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

When I graduate and become a RN I would like to become a home health nurse. I would like to travel and go to my patients' homes, and hopefully help keep them there. I want to help them stay independent, comfortable, and safe at the same time in their homes. Then if they are unable to stay in their homes I would like to be there and help them through the process of finding the right place to go to. There are many people that are becoming part of the older adult population and many of them want to be able to stay in their homes and not go to a skilled nursing facility. With that big of a need coming soon I know that becoming a home health nurse would be a great way for me to continue doing what I love and work with older adults.

How do you hope to impact the profession?

I hope to impact the profession by helping older adults live up to their highest abilities. I love being able to work with and help people every day. This is such a fulfilling career. When I become a nurse I hope that I'm able to do even more for my patients. That is the main reason why I've wanted to continue my education. I want to advance my knowledge and skills and put them into use so that I can help my patients as well as my fellow coworkers.

Example of a positive impact

One night at work I had a resident that was having an awful night. Nothing seemed like it was working out right for her. I went in to do her evening cares, and I could tell that something was wrong. I offered her to take a whirlpool bath so that she could relax for a while, and maybe take what was bothering her off of her mind. While she was in the tub I let her talk to get everything off her chest. When we were done she thanked me and said that she felt so much better that someone took the time out of their day to actually sit and listen to her. This is one example of why I love my job. I'm able to be there for so many people and touch their lives. I also am able to learn so many things from them in the process.