

# Sabrina Pruitt



## **Why did you choose older adult services as a career?**

At the age of 22, my father returned home from Vietnam almost completely dependent on the help of others. He had lost both of his legs due to a land mine and felt helpless. He often reminded me that in life you have an obligation to help others because at any stage in your life it may be you needing help. I feel our older generations need my help now. I want to be here for them when they can't always take care of themselves. I don't know what tomorrow will bring for me but I know what I can do for our older generation today.

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

I ultimately want to study in the field of Alzheimer's and dementia I have a desire to learn about the diseases, the effects on people and their families. I believe victims are completely robbed so I want to be able to help find the means of a better life. I have had several residents who suffered from these diseases and I don't feel confident in know how to meet their needs. I want to provide comfort for those who don't understand what is happening to them.

## **How do you hope to impact to profession?**

I hope to show how to give compassion for the residents I take of. I want to set a standard that nursing is more than a job it can be a comfort for those in need. The opportunity I have to show others the positive impact we can have on others is tremendous. I believe I have an obligation to my residents to provide them with to best quality care I can.

## **Provide a specific example of when you positively impacted someone through the care of services you provided?**

I have a couple that I take care of on a daily basis, she has severe dementia, and he is totally independent and lives at the nursing home to be with her. When I first started taking care of her I was intimidated and I tried to avoid talking to her husband about his wife. One afternoon she was upset, I walked to their room and I found him sitting next to her bed trying to comfort her, she calmed down with his help. He showed me what love was in those brief moments, and I knew then in my heart I had to talk to him about her not because I felt sorry for him but because she is everything to him. The next day I went and visited with him and told him all about her day, from what she ate at lunch to how they fixed her hair at the beauty shop. It started a daily ritual that opened my eyes to what nursing is and should be. Now he trusts me I relay messages to her from him about family, visitors, but mostly about him. I believe I showed him that no matter what life brings there are people who care.