

Name of Nominee: **Anna Amaya, CNA**

Title: Caregiver and Assistant Manager

Place of Employment: Com For Care, Inc.

Name of Nominator: Sue P. McLeod, RN, MS

Relationship to Nominee: Assistant Administrator, Supervisor

This is a nomination for Anna Amaya, CNA who has been employed as a full time care attendant by Com For Care since the Fall of 2005. From the beginning she has been able to serve as an Asst. Manager in several different locations of Com For Care. Her personality and affect reflect her underlying care, compassion and concern for others, especially for the frail elderly and those with dementia. Anna is well liked by the clients and families, the staff and her peers because of her friendly and outgoing personality. HFamilies comment on her genuine concern for our residents and her "personal touch". I have summarized some of her outstanding attributes utilizing some of the criteria for the Ready For Life Award

Maintaining a positive attitude and presents a positive image: Anna is an attractive woman and is always impeccably groomed. Her warm and friendly smile goes a long way to communicating a genuine sense of caring with some of our most anxious, depressed or confused residents. She uses coaxing, encouraging and friendly gestures to motivate the client to participate and maintain whatever level of performance skill is achievable. She approaches both clients and families with words of encouragement and assurance. In addition, she keeps up with her certification and required documentation to remain certified as a CNA, likewise encouraging her peers to become certified.

Is dependable: Although Anna lives far from Com For Care, she is always on time and most of the time early. With the recent cold weather and the Toll ways closed, Anna arrived to work on time and volunteered to help out to "cover" others who were unable to make it in due to weather conditions. She also volunteers to assist families with taking their loved ones to special appointments, Laboratory visits, and the like. She is very attentive with keeping up with health details in the kitchen: labeling and dating containers, monitoring temperatures, addressing the need to wear hairnets, and organizing the Pantry....as well as reminding others to keep these standards.

Is thoughtful about, and makes recommendations for improving service quality by being very attentive to the physical environment assuring that our Maintenance Man completes minor repairs that assure compliance with Life and Safety standards. In one of our homes there was a smoke detector that frequently “churped” even though the alarm panel did not show a problem....Although there were competing priorities for both the nurses and Maintenance.... Anna did not “give up” she kept reminding the maintenance man and the nurses to correct the problem....reminding them that “any day the State could come and we would be in trouble” and within the month of her frequent reminders...there was a TDADs Life and Safety Inspection that had no citations due to her diligent reminding.

Takes initiative: A good example of taking initiative is on several occasions when Anna noted that our draperies or bedspreads needed repair, she utilized her seamstress skills and took the items home with her and returned them repaired and as good as new. The staff has now noted this skill and brings various clothing, spreads and items needing repair to her attention...this extra task is over and above her performance expectations. Another example of taking initiative occurred the year she volunteered to coordinate the Christmas Party and worked tirelessly on her own time preparing and setting up on her days off to assure a festive outcome.

Anna’s attentiveness keeps us on our toes and significantly contributes to serving as a role model for others and assuring that our residents are “Ready for Life”.