

Name of Nominee: Maryi “Yani” Garcia

Title: Personal Care Assistant

Place of Employment: Com for Care, Inc

Name of Nominator: Carolyn Cecile and Betty Sharp (formatted by S. McLeod)

Relationship to Nominee: family member and patient (supervisor)

Yani has been employed as a full time care attendant by Com for Care since August of 2000. She is an assistant manager for the Bellaire II Home of Com for Care. Yani is an excellent caregiver who’s clinical and assessment skills are far more advanced than her education and training. She recognizes subtle changes in patient’s conditions and on more than one occasion has prevented negative outcomes by her initiative and quick reporting. On one occasion when one of the patients had a seizure, she immediately paged the RN on call and while awaiting the nurse’s response, initiated first aid measures independently. This has occurred on a frequent basis earning her the reputation of “clinical leader.”

She is dedicated, dependable, caring and has an outgoing personality with a wonderful sense of humor. Her exceptional humor serves her well and often lightens the situation with her patients. In working with my somewhat-challenging sister Betty, who is cognitive in spite of two strokes, but does not talk, or ambulate much, Yani has her humor to avoid telling her “you’re wrong” and having hurt feelings. One time when my sister got ready for church, Yani simply told my sister that she knew she was dressed to go to church, but that day was not the day for church. She took Betty to the room calendar and pointed to Saturday as the current day! When my sister realized that she had confused the days, she and Yani had a great laugh! And they continued to share this special “humor” bond in most of their interactions. Yani interacts with folks under her care with dignity and respect.

Yani also has gone above and beyond expectations with my sister. On occasion, Betty attends a function a church where she needs to share food with a group. When Betty told Yani of such an occasion, Yani volunteered to cook a pot of beans for Betty to take with her to the meeting. This was a wonderful interaction time for my sister and Yani as they shared “how-to” recipes for the dish. Betty was thrilled that Yani cared for her interests and was willing to do this for her, especially after Yani had already cooked breakfast and lunch and was responsible for cooking supper as well. This “going above and beyond” was most apparent to Betty who self-esteem was really high when she returned from the function and told Yani that “their” dish was the hit of the meal.

Yani also models a positive attitude, never one to complain to peers, if there is a care issue or concern about families or patients she is very forthcoming in bringing the situation to the supervisor and can be counted on to assist in resolving the concern. Her suggestions for improving care delivery are frequently implemented. One of the patients is a marginal quadriplegic requiring close monitoring and frequent repositioning. Yani took the initiative to re-arrange the bed and furnishings in a most unusual way to accommodate her needs. Yani tries to meet the emotional, social, medical, and physical needs of her patients. She is most deserving of being honored as a recipient of the “Ready for life award.”

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Name of Nominator: Marlane F. Sgro
Relationship to Nominee: family member

I would like to highly recommend Maryi Garcia, a caregiver at Com for Care, for the Ready for Life award.

Yani is a self-starter. She has not only enabled my sister to easily adjust to living in a personal care home, but Yani has also made it much easier for me to accept the change in living arrangements. Yani conducts her duties with extreme care and cheerful humor. This puts everyone at ease and makes everyone feel accepted and welcome.

Yani's uniqueness is not limited to humor, which she employees brilliantly. Whether it is a physical need or an emotional one, she is always sensitive to the needs of those individuals under her care. Yani sees to it that the matter is handled in a way that enhances the individual by giving superior care to the individual as well as the family.