

Name of Nominee: Verline Atkins
Title: Primary Care Attendant
Place of Employment: Health Care Solutions
Name of Nominator: Mary White, RN
Relationship to Nominee: Supervisor

This attendant has literally changed the quality of life for one of her client's by going beyond the call to provide the everyday basic necessities of life, food, clothing and shelter by making sure that client complies with his medication regime which give him the ability to function at his mental best, thereby giving him the opportunity to remain independent and in his own home. Ms. Atkins proceeded to improve client's life from the first day she worked for client. Client lived alone in a large brick home in squalid conditions. There was no working electricity/gas, hot water, stove top and oven. There were rodent and lice infestation in some rooms and piles of clothes on the floor in every room. The carpet in the house was filthy and the tile was black with dirt. The client was in great need of personal hygiene.

Ms. Atkins initially went right to work and primarily focused on the client's personal hygiene nutritional and health needs. Since there were no working utilities in the house, Ms. Atkins contacted all of the client's utility providers, explaining the client's situation and proceeded to work out an agreement to get all utilities restored to the client's home. She purchased needed cleaning supplies with her own funds and began to methodically clean client's home room by room. All clothes were removed from the floor and either washed or placed in the proper place and items not salvageable were thrown out.

Client had been non-compliant with all medical appointments and did not take meds as prescribed for both his physical and mental health issues. Ms. Atkins made transportation arrangements for client to comply with all medical visit and reminded client to take meds as prescribed by his physician. Ms. Atkins was very observant during client's personal hygiene tasks and detected that client had developed shingles. She arranged transportation for client to visit his MD to verify this diagnosis and client was able to obtain necessary treatment in a timely manner to treat this disorder. Her observation prevented the client from suffering the effects of a debilitating disease.

Client initially had a five day schedule with no weekends, but Ms. Atkins would work on the weekends without pay to make sure that client's health and nutritional needs were met. Ms. Atkins displays compassion, patience, dependability and initiative and definitely improves the quality of life for her clients. She is an exemplary employee and she treats her patients like a member of her family. She is a true asset to her patients and the home health community.