

Name of Nominee: Yesenia Lux
Title: Personal Care Assistant
Place of Employment: Com for Care, Inc.
Name of Nominator: Sue Potter McLeod, RN
Relationship to Nominee: Supervisor

Yesenia has been employed as a full time care attendant by Com for Care since January 1999. For many years, Yesenia has worked an on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays due to child care needs, two of her shifts are "compressed" and yet she appears to thrive on this demanding schedule. Perhaps the extended hours aids in establishing a "sense of trust" in many of our residents....and allows for special unscheduled manicures and "Spa" treatments for both ladies and gentlemen.... even some of our more anxious residents. On many Saturdays, the "blush", lipstick and hairspray come out as the ladies are prepared for family visitors. Families really appreciate the extra effort.

Yesenia works in two different houses and residents in each of the homes love to see her come. Her warm smile and outgoing personality reflect her underlying concern, compassion and care for the elderly client especially for those with dementia. Yesenia is known for being not only an attentive caregiver, but an observant and self-directed caregiver. Restless clients join her on the couch at night for a bedtime snack and a look through a picture book to help them relax. In an informal residential setting caregiver shift report is frequently "everyone is doing ok" however, after Yesenia completes her night shift, she reports on each client with a detailed condition report to the oncoming shift, noting how well they slept, intake and output and concerns or condition changes to be brought to the attention of the nurse for follow-up. Experienced Day Caregivers comment on her attentiveness and concern for each resident and how it makes their day go better.

Yesenia relates to each individual as a person of value even if the aging process has taken a toll on socialization skills. Those who often become tense, irritable or easily frustrated seem to be a little more relaxed and at ease when Yesenia is working. Her gentle coaxing and encouraging words are frequently noted by nursing staff and family members. With Yesenia, "special" treatment is not reserved for just a few, but for each of the residents.

She notes subtle changes in clients' condition and on several occasions has asked the nurse to come and check on a client who is "not right". This attentiveness and concern frequently results in treatment that prevents a more serious or negative outcome for the client. When noting a reddened skin area or bruise on one of the patients, she initiates appropriate first aid measures and makes certain the nurse on call is notified.

Yesenia arrives at work each day with a smile and a "can-do" attitude that is contagious and she is recognized as a dependable, positive individual who inspires confidence and trust. She is always smiling, always encouraging and always ready to learn how to better help the patient. When the nurse is following up on a complaint, Yesenia encourages all staff to "watch and listen so we can learn to make things better." This positive attitude helps the staff to recognize their responsibility to bring their best efforts to work on behalf of the patients and families. Yesenia shines in dependability teamwork, positive image and attitude and initiative.

It is with pleasure that I nominate Yesenia Lux for the Ready For Life Award.

