

To work in a nursing home is to wear your heart on your sleeve the minute you walk in the door.

Everyone working with the residents of long term care must be prepared to experience the gauntlet of emotions from laughter to tears as well as frustration and satisfaction. Egos need to be checked at the door because our job is truly about making a difference in someone else's life. And we do. A smile, a hello, a hug or holding a hand can determine how a resident will feel for the rest of the day.

Working long term care can be a challenge but the rewards outweigh the difficulties. Addressing the variety of illness, social and ethnic backgrounds, and overall diversity can be exhausting, but we do it. We do it because we genuinely care about those entrusted to our care. We know that this will be the last home most of our residents will have. We know that sometimes we have to substitute for the family that so many of them no longer have. We know that oft times we are the only ones who will be here to share a smile, a tear or a memory.

Working in a nursing home is a unique experience. I am grateful to be part of this community and I am grateful to be able to touch the lives of so many and make a difference.

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