



Issue 10, August 15, 2014

*I am taking a break from our regular updates to say
Happy 21st Birthday to the James L West Center
and to congratulate our **2014 Employees of the Year.***

First, a few numbers: the average tenure for a West Center employee is 6 years, and 1 in 5 have been here more than 15 years. Few healthcare organizations can claim such loyalty in their ranks! The commitment to our mission is deep, and we thank all of our staff members for the many unseen acts of kindness and compassion that they exhibit every day.

Every year, our staff members and families submit nominations for Employees of the Year in each department—special awards because they represent the best of the best, as seen through the eyes of those who recognize what it takes to be the best, every day.

This year's winners are:

Dietary: here just one year, **Ida Isom** was singled out for her quiet dignity, respect, kindness, helpfulness, and pride in the little details that mean so much.

Programming: eighteen-month employee **Linda Thomas** received kudos for her determination and work ethic through a year of personal challenge. Her devotion to the residents, ability to make heart connections, and sweet spirit won her the award.

Reception/Plant Ops winner **Verchelle Holman**, here 9 ½ years, is friendly, funny, dedicated, professional, fashionable, and everyone loves her smile.

Nurse of the Year **Linda Mayfield, LVN**, has been here 5 ½ years, and is a great mentor to others. Her peers appreciate her amazing professionalism, caring attitude, strong clinical skills, and willingness to pitch in and help her aides when needed. She takes wonderful care of residents and their families.

In Administration, **Sherrain Myles** rose above the others with her contagious smile, super job done, and respect for each individual in every department. She is a role model who brings light and joy, and who teaches others to be better in both their personal and professional lives.



And finally, **the C.N.A. of the Year, Della Craney-Williams** who also received the most votes overall, was named the **James L West Employee of the Year for 2014**. Della is a 20-year employee, and one of those angels who has chosen to dedicate her life and career to being a certified nursing assistant to the elderly. She excels at a job that few understand and even fewer would do, while wearing a smile, for twenty years. Della's peers cast many, many votes for her, noting that she is an exceptional C.N.A. who is outstanding with residents, shows Christian love for everyone, looks out for others, is loyal, dedicated, wonderful, and gets the job done. Always smiling, she shares her experience with others, and is a quiet but steady mentor for newer aides.

Congratulations to Della, to our other award winners, and to our "original" staff members who have been with the Center since it opened its doors twenty one years ago: Dietary Manager Pam Williamson, night shift Cardinal C.N.A. Linda Quinn, and former Director of Nursing (retired) and current Day Program RN consultant Kay Sharp, RN. Another "Original", C.N.A. Linda Brown, retired earlier this year.

The James L West Presbyterian Special Care Center was dedicated into service to our community on August 3, 1994. We have grown and changed, but our mission has remained the same:



The James L. West Center is a not-for-profit organization which serves persons with Alzheimer's Disease and related disorders and their families in a compassionate and spiritual environment. This Center is dedicated to providing individualized care and support to enhance the quality and dignity of each person's life throughout the course of the disease. By participating in meaningful research and sharing its experience and knowledge, the Center is committed to enriching lives now and in the future.

Best Wishes,

Susan Farris, Executive Director