



2021 Caregiver of the Year Award



Meet the Finalists

2021



Amua Adu
HomeCare of the Rockies
Longmont, CO

<p>Amua is professional, compassionate, level-headed, and a creative problem solver who demonstrates integrity as well as the other the values of an exceptional caregiver.</p> <p>With both clients and co-workers Amua takes time to understand what others need to feel safe, comfortable, valued, and then provides that with her own unique flair.</p> <p>She decks out her work uniform with brightly painted nails, a stylish hat, or a jacket – anything that conveys her own vibrant spirit and can engage clients. It’s another way to connect with them, she says.</p> <p>But it’s her calm, compassionate professionalism that clients and co-workers value. Amua is prepared, attending every training in the year-long HomeCare 100 Professional Training Program. She studies on her own time to learn more about the specific needs her clients may experience. She is highly responsive to the client’s needs and uses a variety of techniques and approaches to help. She demonstrates the patience and compassion necessary for customized one-on-one care. Each client feels like Amua is there only for them.</p> <p>Amua knows that people are more than a diagnosis, more than elderly. She takes time to get to know the whole person. And delivers care that fits the client’s needs and personal preferences.</p>	<p>Years as Caregiver 1-5 years</p>
<p>Amua’s new client was struggling. She is living with dementia didn’t trust anyone, having a hard time communicating her needs. Others had spent time telling, directing, prodding this woman, pushing her toward the care she needed. Amua did it differently. At first, she just listened, observed.</p> <p>Verbal communication is difficult because of dementia. But Amua understood that the woman desperately wanted to be heard and validated. She noticed that the client is sensory focused, so Amua begin connecting with her through smell, touch, hearing, vision.</p>	<p>Years with Current Agency 1-5 years</p>



Zora Bullett
Bry & Wms Medical Inc
Harrisburg, PA

<p>Zora is kind, compassionate and caring. She trains her coworkers so that they can give above exemplary services also. She works with clients on every need - dementia, MS, Parkinsons – there is no job too difficult and she loves a challenge.</p>	<p>Years as Caregiver 11-15 years</p>
<p>We had a caregiver specifically trained in hospice and Zora was trained as her backup. At midnight as the client began to expire, the trained caregiver called Zora because she began to have anxiety.</p> <p>Zora got dressed and went to the client’s home to assist the caregiver, and ended up taking over, excelling in all aspects of care in the dying process.</p> <p>The client’s daughter called her name at the funeral and said that she should take her place up front with the family. She is an amazing person who does this with her heart and not just with her hands.</p>	<p>Years with Current Agency 11-15 years</p>



Deanna Conroy
Home Helpers Home Care - Hinsdale
Hinsdale, IL

<p>Dee connects on a deep level with her clients and strives to help them find purpose in their lives as they age, whether that is finding new ways to plant tomatoes or going on errands together.</p> <p>Having a caregiver you can trust offers a sense of relief to the family. Dee provides that trust both to her clients and to family members. She is the eyes and ears on what is taking place with their loved one and they are glad she is the one. They have confidence that she has the best interest and safety for their parents. They know if they ask Dee to pick up something or do something it will be done. Dee is great with communicating whether by text or a call. The families feel connected and appreciate that Dee is so responsive so everyone is on the same page.</p>	<p>Years as Caregiver 15+ years</p>
<p>Every Easter, Dee and her late client made a lamb cake together. This past holiday the client was confined to the bed, so Dee adapted and started to make this special cake herself and then brought the mixing bowl to the client's bed so she could stir the batter and the client could feel part of the process like in the past. Dee knew what was important to her client and made sure to find a way they can still participate.</p> <p>Several client's families shared the peace of mind and comfort they have felt knowing Dee is there as a friend and companion, as well as providing care and keeping their loved one safe.</p> <p>One client's family is so thankful that Dee is so willing to adapt now that their father is in a wheelchair. They are grateful she still takes him places and never complains with the extra task of lifting his wheelchair in and out of the car. Dee helps the client get out so he can be more social and meet other residents which is something the family likes as their dad is much less lonely and happier being around people.</p>	<p>Years with Current Agency 11-15 years</p>



Adrienne Cooper
All About You Home Health Services
Easthampton, MA

Being a caregiver can be very difficult, especially during a global pandemic. Adrienne was instrumental in the protection of our staff and clients during COVID-19. She collaborated with other local service providers to share PPE. She stepped up and did wellness checks, and assisted with picking up groceries and prescriptions for her clients, as well as others she had never met before.

Her name is well-known throughout the company as the person everyone can count on. If we're ever in a bind or if a client is going through a particularly difficult situation, Adrienne is always front and center with a helpful suggestion or solution.

The community we serve, including our referral sources, constantly call and request her as a caregiver. We are always rearranging her schedule so she can check in with as many clients as possible. We still haven't figured out how she manages to maintain her compassion and professionalism with all that she has on her plate. It's a running joke in the office that we will be the first in line if anyone ever figures out how to clone people and we'll be requesting 20 Adriennes!

Adrienne's specialty has always been individuals with dementia. There was one family that bonded with Adrienne. She helped the family cope when the patriarch of the family was diagnosed with dementia. She shared support group information with them and tips and tricks for when his condition declined. She listened and consoled when the family needed a shoulder to cry on. She made meals and helped with household tasks outside of her working hours. When the difficult decision was made to place him in a long-term care facility, she was involved in helping him and the family acclimate to the change.

When he passed months later, she was one of the first people the family notified. They were kind enough to share how grateful they were for her and her kindness in his obituary.

Years as Caregiver
15+ Years

Years with Current Agency
6-10 years



Greg Gorton
Hill-Serve LLC, DBA Right at Home
Grand Blanc, MI

<p>Greg goes into homes and can create a bond with our clients and their families that puts them all at ease which in turn fosters an atmosphere to provide exceptional care almost effortlessly.</p> <p>Greg is a family man, He takes great pride in what he does as a caregiver, He currently takes care of his mother and cared for his own father before he passed away. Greg gets it, he understands the importance of providing great care to people, It comes naturally to him.</p> <p>Talking to Greg is like talking to an encyclopedia – he knows a little bit about everything, He is a huge history buff, and has been around the world, He used to work on a cruise ship as a musician, and still plays many instruments and often uses music to soothe his clients.</p>	<p>Years as Caregiver 15+ Years</p>
<p>I sent Greg to a family who was at first a little apprehensive about receiving in-home care from a stranger. The client was in hospice, bed bound, and his wife was very overwhelmed with trying to take care of him. I knew exactly who to call for this family, and in typical Greg fashion he did not hesitate to say “sign me up.” Greg being the caregiver that he is took along with him his musical instruments, one of which was a ukulele so that he could play bluegrass music at the client’s bedside. Unbeknownst to any of us, the client was a HUGE bluegrass fan and loved the music.</p> <p>Greg worked just one shift with this client, who passed with Greg at his bedside while playing bluegrass music. The family was overwhelmed by Greg’s compassion towards their father, and he left an impact on this family that they will never forget.</p>	<p>Years with Current Agency 15+ Years</p>



Renate Jefferson
Senior Home Help
Camden, DE

<p>Renate is a mature woman who has dedicated her life to taking care of the elderly as a CNA. Every single client that she has taken care of has raved about her. She provides all aspects of care and even takes care of their pets as well.</p> <p>She is a genuine, selfless and caring individual who gets satisfaction from assisting the elderly clientele.</p>	<p>Years as Caregiver 15+ years</p>
<p>Renate was our first caregiver who was in a home with a COVID positive client. This occurred right after the state was deemed to be in a pandemic and the world was unsure about COVID and its transmission. Renate did not bat an eyelash, just stating “This is my job and my patient needs me.” I was impressed with this attitude.</p> <p>She did not waiver even after some other caregivers developed COVID symptoms. Renate always embraces her role and runs with it no matter what it entails. Renate never backs away from a challenge and always puts her client's needs first.</p>	<p>Years with Current Agency 1-5 years</p>



Paolo Moyani

Companion Extraordinaire Home Care Services
Henrico, VA

<p>Paolo’s parents petitioned for 20 years to immigrate to the U.S. from the Philippines. When he arrived here, he was 19 and was almost ineligible because the age limit to leave the Philippines was 20. Soon after his arrival to the U.S., Paolo was diagnosed with a brain tumor. Just before Christmas in 2013, he was told he would need surgery to remove the tumor. He had follow up chemotherapy and radiation and has now been cancer free for six years.</p> <p>Paolo, against all odds, became a Certified Nursing Assistant in 2015 and then became a naturalized citizen of the United States in 2019. He believes his journey to the U.S. has been miraculous on many levels.</p>	<p>Years as Caregiver 6-10 years</p>
<p>At the end of 2018, he started with a long-term client who was deaf. Paolo found ways to effectively communicate with him. He taught this client to dance and gave him the gift of song despite his deafness. Paolo worked continuously with his client to assist him in learning to use a new ipad and even brought him Filipino cuisine to taste international foods.</p> <p>Paolo always remembered his client’s birthday with homemade birthday cakes. Paolo also donated numerous items to his client including a lift chair to assist the client with successful transfers. He described his client as his “best friend,” and faithfully served his client through hospice and his recent passing.</p>	<p>Years with Current Agency 1-5 years</p>



Daina Muzirwa
Caring Friends Home Care
Conshohocken, PA

<p>Daina provides exceptional care and is passionate about treating people well. She quickly discerns her clients needs and efficiently addresses them which always improves client and family satisfaction.</p> <p>Outside of work, Daina is an amazing grandparent and guardian to her autistic grandson, whose mother was tragically murdered. Without hesitation, Diana took over the care of her grandson who is now thriving and a straight-A student.</p>	<p>Years as Caregiver 6-10 years</p>
<p>Daina’s most recent client had just been diagnosed with COVID-19 and was physically deconditioned and in a slump mentally. Daina worked hard to liven his spirits, make healthy and nutritious meals, and diligently assisted him with strength training exercises. He is now fully recovered and is physically and emotionally strong, thanks to Daina.</p>	<p>Years with Current Agency 1-5 years</p>



Wilma Reed
Right at Home In Home Care
Winston-Salem, NC

<p>Wilma's character is extraordinary! She is passionate and truly shines a light to all those around her. Wilma believes helping clients to make the most of their lives each day to be happy and exciting, and the best it can be is the set goal.</p>	<p>Years as Caregiver 15+ years</p>
<p>For last several years, she has been indispensable in caring for a very high acuity client who cannot speak. The client communicates with sounds and non-verbal cues, which can only be understood at best by those who know client well. Wilma is the only aide who can understand the client. The client's eyes light up when Wilma walks into the home.</p> <p>Due to a close client-caregiver bond, Wilma is able to accomplish everything that the client wants in the day and more importantly, in the manner and order client prefers – starting with PT and OT exercises, which require great patience and skill due to tremendous rigidity of client's joints, then preparing her favorite soft foods and feeding in just the right motion and rhythm, followed by checking and replying to emails for the client, again with much patience and insight to interpret client's thoughts and words.</p> <p>Each vital task is punctuated throughout the day and evening shifts with humor, encouraging words/phrases, sometimes tears/crying, laughs, along with smooth and soothing Elton John background music, which the client loves! There are times when the client's emotions are running high due to her condition. Wilma tells the client "I understand you and am here for you."</p>	<p>Years with Current Agency 11-15 years</p>



Natalie Toledo

Loves Family Home Care LLC

Fort Myers, FL

<p>Natalie started in 7th grade as a candy-striper, volunteering through high school in nursing homes, and becoming a medic for the Air Force during the Gulf war.</p> <p>She is highly sought after by our clients, as she is excellent with getting Alzheimer's and dementia clients to engage with her and become active. She routinely covers shifts, including some at ridiculous hours of the night and is considered the best team player.</p> <p>She also submits social media (with client approval) for promotional and awareness purposes. Many of these TikToks and Facebook posts show how special she is to her clients.</p> <p>As an EMT she also is quick to recognize potential medical issues with her clients and address them before they become an issue.</p>	<p>Years as Caregiver 15+ years</p>
<p>Natalie had a client who had severe onset dementia and would shut off from the world, becoming increasingly reclusive. Natalie came into her life and got her to engage in a million different ways. One story that comes to mind is the Easter egg contest we had for clients. She worked with her client to make eggs, dye them, create outfits and faces for them, name them, and then film a brief video. The client's face lit up and she was so proud that she was part of the Easter contest for best decorated egg.</p>	<p>Years with Current Agency 1-5 years</p>