

# Setting the Standard Award



## Shirley Cort

Resident Aide/  
Caregiver,  
Life Enriching  
Communities

Her sister, Winnie Allen, works in the same building and is also a recipient of a Setting the Standard Award in the 2025 McKnight's Pinnacle Awards program. Judges were unaware of their relationship.

In addition to her normal caregiving duties such as feeding the residents, she provides personalized care, including playing music.

Outside of work, she enjoys reggae dancing and waltzing, and cooking South American food.

As a resident-aide caregiver with nearly a quarter-century of dedicated service, Shirley Cort has set the highest standard of caregiving and compassion for the individuals she serves day in, day out.

She is a loyal staff member in the memory care unit of Life Enriching Communities' Wesley Ridge retirement community in Reynoldsburg, OH, where she has worked since 2001.

Caring for often bedbound or chairbound residents requires extraordinary patience and empathy, qualities that her colleagues say she embodies without fail.

"Her residents' faces light up when she walks into a room, a testament to the trust and comfort she brings," one colleague noted. "Whether reading the newspaper, giving hand massages, or simply watching TV with the residents, Shirley consistently prioritizes their well-being."

Her influence extends beyond her immediate responsibilities. In addition to caring for residents, she inspires her fellow employees through leadership, mentorship and expertise.

As a trainer, she shares her vast knowledge with her peers, offering insights into both best practices and the unique histories of each resident. And, despite her years of service, her supervisors say she remains adaptable and open to change if it benefits the residents and her fellow employees.

"For over 23 years, Shirley has exemplified the very best of compassionate caregiving, bringing warmth, dedication and an unwavering commitment to so many residents," says Life Enriching Communities CEO Scott McQuinn. "She not only enhances the lives of those she serves, but also inspires her peers through her leadership and expertise."