



Setting the Standard Award

Winifred “Winnie” Allen

Resident Aide/
Caregiver,
Life Enriching
Communities

Her sister, Shirley Cort, works in the same building and coincidentally is also a recipient of a *McKnight's* Setting the Standard Award this year — judges were unaware of their relationship. The two share a close bond and similar hobbies.

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

Known as a mentor and relationship builder, she's considered the go-to person in her unit for new employees.

With a positive attitude, tireless dedication to her residents, and an ability to handle the toughest care plans, Winnie Allen is a shining example of caregiving excellence.

Throughout her 22-year career as a caregiver in assisted living at Life Enriching Communities' Wesley Ridge retirement community in Reynoldsburg, OH, she has cultivated deep, lasting relationships with her residents, making them feel truly valued and cherished.

Allen's influence extends beyond her residents. New hires consistently train under her guidance and she is a mentor to young employees. Company leaders praise her for leading by example, with patience, kindness and an unwavering commitment to her work.

Yet while many of her younger staff who train under her often go on to become excellent caregivers themselves, one sentiment is often heard from residents: “The new ones are good, but they're not Winnie.”

She also goes above and beyond the call of duty when the needs of her facility and residents demand it. She has been known to work 20 hours straight, filling in for colleagues who call in sick. Staff members and managers say she is always willing to step up and go the extra mile to ensure residents' needs are met.

“Winnie Allen exemplifies the very best of caregiving — her dedication, compassion and unwavering commitment to so many residents sets a gold standard in our community,” says Life Enriching Communities CEO Scott McQuinn. “For over 22 years, she has gone beyond providing care; she has built meaningful relationships, mentored new caregivers, and has consistently put the well-being of others first.”