

C&H News

Autumn 2020



COVID Update

With the start of school and the continued gradual reopening of the state, we are slowly inching together towards more normal times. "Grateful" doesn't begin to express the admiration and appreciation we have for our hard working caregivers who have continued to provide unwavering, excellent care to our clients throughout the pandemic. To all who have continued to serve our clients through these challenging times, **thank you.** ♥



Just a reminder – masks are required to be worn when visiting your clients.

According to the State Department of Public Health, it is best for both caregiver and client to wear masks throughout each homecare visit if the client can tolerate it. Caregivers

should continue to wear masks on every visit – masks enable us to continue to serve our clients while keeping them safe. We appreciate your continued support of this important policy. Additional protective equipment is available – call your office for details.



Caregiver Scholarship Program 2020 Winner Announced



The Annual C&H Caregiver Scholarship Program was founded in 2015, and is open to caregivers, their children and grandchildren. The program awards funds that can be used towards tuition, books, and expenses for post-secondary (after-high school) education.

This year's winner is Melissa Lamy of Waterbury, daughter of caregiver Evette Lamy. Melissa was an honors student in high school, and is now in her senior year at Western Connecticut State University. She will complete a degree in social work in the spring. Melissa spends much of her free time volunteering at soup kitchens and for other support organizations, and finds great satisfaction making the lives of others better.

We're proud to provide funding for her senior year, and wish Melissa the best in completing her degree and beginning her career helping others. 

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www.CompanionsandHomemakers.com



facebook.com/companionsandhomemakers

Caregivers Needed!

The increase in the number of older adults wishing to remain at home, particularly during the pandemic, has created a statewide caregiver shortage. There has never been a greater need for caregivers. We are actively hiring, and we have work available in all areas of the state – everything from a few hours a week to 24/7 live-in assignments.

We offer:

- Flexible Work Schedules
- Immediate Openings
- Competitive Wages & Benefits Including 80% Company-Paid Health Insurance, 401(k) with Company Match and More
- No Homecare Experience Necessary – Training is Available

We also have a streamlined online application process that will save applicants valuable time completing the basic application and onboarding paperwork. Immediate interviews are available via Zoom or in-person at any of our offices.

A reminder to existing caregivers - C&H pays referral bonuses to active caregivers who refer new caregivers – ask your branch office for more information.

Applicants are encouraged to apply online at our website www.companionsandhomemakers.com, or they may call our Recruiting department at **1-833-256-5627** to learn more.



**Grammy Rose
Dog Rescue &
Sanctuary**

Grammy Rose Has Broken Ground!

We are dog-gone excited to share that the Grammy Rose Dog Rescue & Sanctuary being built in southwest Maine that we support has finally broken ground! Construction drawings are being finalized, and we're expecting the dog cabins,

welcome and adoption center and other structures to take about 14 months to construct. To see pictures of the land clearing that has just taken place and to see renderings of what's being built, visit the Grammy Rose website, or look for Grammy Rose Dog Rescue & Sanctuary on Facebook. Check back often - updates will be posted throughout the construction process.

 www.grammyrose.org 



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25 Amazing Years of Caregiving: Meet Yvonne Sheppard

Yvonne Sheppard, one of our longest-serving caregivers, has just celebrated an amazing milestone in her caregiving career – 25 years of service to her clients at Companions & Homemakers! Ask any

of the clients she has served over the years, and they'll describe her as dependable, reliable, and "wonderful... with an amazing attention to detail". One client shared that Yvonne "truly improved her quality of life", and another observed that Yvonne



goes above and beyond and "her work is her joy."

Yvonne is such an accomplished homemaker that one client shared that "sometimes after Yvonne leaves, my

home is so sparkling and so clean I need to take a picture!"

Yvonne is originally from Barbados, but has made her home in New Haven for the past 28 years. She has 5 children and 13 grandchildren, and visits them in Barbados when she can. Yvonne joined C&H in August 1995, and has been recognized for her service to others many times over the years. Yvonne received the highest honor we bestow upon our caregivers, the Starfish Award and has been the recipient of a Gotcha! Award that was presented based on a glowing client letter about Yvonne's work. C&H proudly nominated her for the prestigious Caregiver of the Year Award for the Home Care Association of America.



We asked Yvonne what advice she would give to new caregivers starting out. Without hesitation she said, "Do the work, and be proud of it. Respect the elder, it's their home." Great advice from a career caregiver. From all of us at C&H, congratulations Yvonne for achieving this amazing milestone in your career! We wish you many more happy years of caregiving!

Recent Caregiver Recognition

For many, caregiving is more than a job – it's a calling. We truly love recognizing caregivers for their incredible efforts to support our mission of keeping older adults home. Since our last newsletter, a number of caregivers have been recognized for their service to others with a Starfish Award or Gotcha! Award. Here are some of the most recent awards.



Starfish Awards

Caregivers are honored with a Starfish Award for going above and beyond for their clients. The award includes a beautiful starfish pin and a financial bonus. With a combined 44 years of dedicated client service between them, 9 caregivers have recently been honored with a Starfish Award:



Caregiver **Angela H.** of Bloomfield was honored for 2 years of service to her client demonstrating "what true excellence in caregiving really is". Caregiver **Charleen D.** of Waterbury was recognized for her selfless devotion to her longtime live-in client. **Sean D.** of North Branford

was honored for his enduring good-natured approach to caregiver for a longtime client who referred to Sean as a "gift from heaven." **Diana M.** of Madison received a Starfish Award for the care she provided to a married couple for over 3 years; they described her as "the perfect blend of skill, talent, creativity, dedication, and humor with a positive caring approach."

Joan F. of Waterbury received a Starfish Award for the live-in care she provided to a long-time client whose family described Joan as "a companion, a friend, and a valuable asset to the family." **Karen R.,** also from Waterbury, received a Starfish Award for the very special care she provided to a client during very difficult circumstances. Karen said she was going to have a wonderful day after learning of the award.



Jean R. of Torrington was recognized for over 10 years of service to one of her clients in which the relationship was described by the client's son as "an absolutely perfect match – almost a mother/daughter relationship!"

Michelle S. of Hamden received a Starfish Award after a letter from a client's daughter described her longtime care as "compassionate, attentive, and a bright light in my mom's day."

Marie J., a live-in caregiver based in Bristol, was honored for the care she provided to a long-time C&H client during the final weeks of her life.

GOTCHA!

The Gotcha! Award acknowledges a specific act or moment in which a caregiver exceeds the expectations of their client, and includes the caregiver's choice of prizes from a special collection.

Recent Gotcha! Award winners include caregivers **Shournell W.** of Stratford, **Lori T.** of Oxford, **Diane A.** of New Britain, **Glennise H.** of East Hartford, **Tania H.** of Manchester, **Paulette D.** of Waterbury, **Mike E.** of Clinton, **Pamela S.** of Bridgeport, **Kathy P.** of West Hartford, **Veronica S.** of Waterbury, **Jannie C.** of Middletown, **Gwendolyn H.** of Bridgeport, **Michael C.** of Enfield, and caregiver **Kim P.** of Norwalk. Our thanks and congratulations to all for a job well done! ♥♥♥♥♥



Celebrating a Special Birthday

One of our clients, Katherine Held of West Haven (pictured at right), celebrated an incredible birthday recently – her **105th!** Field Coordinator Monique Israel visited her on behalf of C&H to present a bouquet of sunflowers and roses, balloons, and some much appreciated chocolates to help her celebrate her birthday. Mrs. Held and her live-in caregiver Shournell W. were both delighted to see Monique, and Mrs. Held was truly grateful for the flowers and gifts... and especially the chocolates!

