

NEWS RELEASE

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Contact: Di Findley, Executive Director, Iowa CareGivers

Phone: 515.249.0138

Email: Di.Findley@iowacaregivers.org

Website: www.iowacaregivers.org

Local Direct Care Professional Honored For Over 40 Years of Service

Patricia Clark, Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) was recently honored at Iowa CareGivers conference for 41 years of service in direct care. Patricia is employed at St. Anthony Regional Hospital in Carroll, IA. She was accompanied by her husband, Randy; brother, Mike; and her mother Glenda who worked as a CNA for 30 years.

When asked to reflect on her 41 years in direct care she said, "I could write a book but it would never be finished because I learn something new every day." Fortunate for those who benefit from the passionate care and support she provides, her plans are to continue working in direct care for several more years.

Pat credits the fact that she is still in the field to having a wonderful nurse who had a lot of patience with her when she started out, and grandparents whom she cared for that encouraged her to stay in the field because she was good at it. Pat also said, "Everyone thinks this is such an easy job but it isn't. One of the toughest things about my job is dealing with death and the families of those individuals. You don't want to show your tears, so you go into the bathroom to cry!"

"This award is important, said Di Findley, Executive Director of Iowa CareGivers, because it counters the perception by some that this isn't a profession that anyone would choose as a career. That simply isn't true. Pat and many like her should not be viewed as entry level workers in entry level jobs. She has devoted 41 years to her profession and has served thousands of Iowans. And that is a story that needs to be shared and honored."

The award, named in memory of the late Margaret Swanson, long time Iowa CareGivers volunteer board member and supporter is held in high esteem by the Iowa CareGivers. Margaret understood what an important role direct care workers play after witnessing the care they provided her daughter, Chris, who was in a coma and later died following a serious car crash. Margaret was a great advocate for those who work in direct care.

The Iowa CareGivers is a nonprofit and nonpartisan organization that exists to ensure that Iowans receive good care and support when and where they need it...it does that by serving the needs of those who provide most of that care and support...the direct care workforce.

For more information about the Iowa CareGivers, its programs, services, and advocacy please visit www.iowacaregivers.org.