



## This week, take a moment to honor direct care workers

Nancy G. Anderson, West Des Moines, Letter to the Editor 6:16 a.m. CT June 14, 2017



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All of us have someone in our lives whose life has been touched by a trained professional care giver such as a certified nurse aide, a home care aide or other trained direct caregiver. This care giving takes place in hospitals, nursing homes, in private homes and many other settings.

June 15-22 is a week to honor and recognize this special profession who are often over-worked, under-paid and under-appreciated.

The direct care workers provide personal and often difficult care with compassion and skill. The care usually involves toileting, bathing and feeding a person who cannot do these activities independently. They are trained to do these activities in such a way that the person receiving care has their dignity maintained. They stay on the job because they care about the people they work with and believe they are making a difference in people's lives. The job is tough and those who are not suited to it leave quickly.

This week personally thank all direct care givers for their dedication and caring. They do "make a difference" in the lives of patients, families and their workplace.

— Nancy G. Anderson, West Des Moines, retired CNA and nursing home social worker

