

Tuesday, June 30, 2015, a dedicated group of people gathered in Ft Dodge with one common goal; to reawaken passion and inspire action. Iowa CareGivers never disappoints. Topics of discussion included Iowa's Care Gap, Direct Care turnover, The Financial Fitness Challenge, Prepare to Care core training and the Mouth Care Matters Advanced Training Module. Gale Mote inspired us to take ownership and initiative with our profession because THIS IS OUR DAY and WHO WE ARE MAKES A DIFFERENCE. It's easy to be bogged down by the stresses and mandates of direct care, but attending Iowa CareGivers events helps rekindle our purpose; reminding us WHY (why we do what we do).

This is also THE TOUGHTEST JOB YOU'LL EVER LOVE. I left Iowa Central Community College proudly wearing my new t-shirt.

Standing in line at the coffee shop (refueling for the ride home) a stranger was staring at me. Finally she spoke, "Are you in direct care?" she asked.

"Yes, I am."

"I really admire the work of you and your colleagues. You make such an incredible difference in the lives of the people you work with."

"Thank you"

We spend a lot of time talking about how we can influence our communities. We wonder if we are making a difference, if anyone is noticing.

All I did was wear the t-shirt. The actions of our profession speak for themselves, and people are noticing.

Be encouraged, be inspired, and believe because who you are (what you do) makes a difference!