

Abigail Randall



Why did you choose older adult services as a career? I grew up on a family farm in rural Minnesota. My dad purchased the farm from my great-grandparents. Even though they were retired, my great-grandparents were still at our house almost every day. It was the norm to have them arrive early in the morning and stay late into the afternoon. I loved having them around. As they aged and approached their upper 80's and then 90's, we had to learn to adjust to their changing needs and abilities. We learned early to speak a little more plainly, not to be too rambunctious, and to talk a little louder when Grandma Rose and Grandpa Art were around.

Spending so much time with my great-grandparents as a child planted seeds of love, concern for, and comfortableness with the elderly. I love hearing their stories and learning what their lives were like when they were younger. They gave us so much of what we enjoy and know today; I love being able to give back to them in little and big ways.

What do you want to do with your life and how do you hope to impact the older adult services profession? After graduation I would like to get a job at a war veteran's hospital. I have had several members of my family go into the military, so that has put the military very close to my heart. I would love to serve them **in** that way. Eventually, after I have gained more experience, I want to be a volunteer nurse for nonprofit organizations. I want to be able to help those who are **in** great need and have no one else to turn to for help.

For two years my permanent position at Good Samaritan's was on the Temporary Care Unit-station 2. Not everyone to whom I gave care was elderly, but their needs were much the same no matter the age. Not everyone at a veteran's hospital is elderly (although a lot are). My great uncle Mike is a Vietnam vet and an amputee. When he first started to receive care at a veteran's hospital, he wasn't a senior citizen. Now, these many years later, he is.

Our current senior population is our largest population groups, so their needs will be more numerous than that of any other age group. Serving as a nurse at a veteran's hospital or at a nonprofit organization would directly and indirectly benefit the older population; and the same skills, both interpersonally and medically, are needed no matter the age of the patient.

Provide a specific example of when you positively impacted someone through the care or services you provided. Tonight at work I was again servicing on the Temporary Care Unit or TCU. On the station was an older man who had thought he was going to be able to go home that day, but somehow or other he had misunderstood, and he was going to have to be on the TCU for a while longer. He was having a rough evening because of this, so I made sure to give him extra attention. I told him of a camping vacation my family and I would soon be taking, even bringing our horses along, and that got him talking. By the end of the night, he was smiling and laughing again. It was amazing how something as simple as talking about horses could brighten someone's day.

How have you positively impacted your organization and increased its effectiveness? Just as one negative action can ripple through the organization and community, likewise, shift after shift of positive actions, like the one mentioned above, can positively impact the nursing home, and fulfill the mission statement of the Good Samaritan Society. "To share God's love in word and deed by providing shelter and supportive services to older persons and others in need, believing that, 'In Christ's Love,

Everyone is Someone.'“ Everyday has its own circumstances and challenges. That's why I always bring kindness and patient to work with me. I always need them. 😊