

Jill Kortleever



I am applying for the Hagemeyer Scholarship because I have a true passion for the Long Term Care program. Upon graduating from High School in 1994 I was still unsure about what I wanted to do for the rest of my life. With this fact I decided to put college on hold until I had a clear understanding what my calling would be in life. So I signed up for Certified Nursing Assistant classes, got my certification, and worked as a CNA for 4 years. It was during this time that I decided that working with the elderly had to be the most rewarding job on earth. Not a day would go by that I did not get a "thank you" from one of our residents. I truly felt that what I did was making a huge difference in life, so I decided to further my education and become a licensed practical nurse. After getting my Minnesota LPN license I took a job at a local hospital working in the mental health unit. Although that was a rewarding job, I still found myself missing the Long Term Care setting. So I went right back to the nursing home, got a job as an LPN and have been working for Good Samaritan ever since.

My goal now is to further my skills and knowledge through the registered nursing program. I plan to continue my work in long term care when I accomplish my goal, but feel I will have so much more to offer. I hope I can better assist my facility with some of the work that "requires and RN." I feel I have great knowledge and skill right now but just do not have the appropriate license to complete some of the tasks.

My current job is to train new and existing staff in the facility and also coordinate the quality program. I feel like I impact staff on a daily basis by monitoring and auditing their work and providing positive feedback to them so that they want to continue giving quality care. My goal and my job is to encourage staff to do a great job every day when they come to work. If our residents and families are satisfied then our staff will be as well.

I implemented the online learning program at our center which allows staff to do required inservices online at their own pace and at their own convenience. This has been a very positive program in our center since it allows staff more freedom when doing their required inservices. I also do the training with new nurses regarding supervision of CNA's. This is a 12 part course called leading with spirit and has been a very positive course of study in assisting our nurses to be "leaders" while on duty. I lead monthly meetings with the quality committee and ensure projects and tasks get completed in a timely manner. I also lead the falls committee, ensuring all of our falls reviewed and an appropriate intervention is put into place and try to come up with ways to prevent further occurrences. I lead the safety meetings in our facility to ensure our facility and grounds are free from hazards.

I believe that I am a great candidate for your scholarship and hope that I will be considered for the reward.