

# Tiffany Johnson



When I was sixteen years old, I helped care for my grandfather who passed away from prostate cancer. He also had Alzheimer's, which at that time I did not understand what it was. I enjoyed preparing meals, and assisting him with hygiene cares, because I realized that he was no longer able to do it for himself. I enjoyed giving him back rubs when he cried, and listening to stories from his earlier years. That experience sparked my interest in older adults that continues today. It is very rewarding to be able to play a role in caring for them.

After I obtain my Associates degree in nursing, I plan to earn my BSN. I want to impact the older adult profession by furthering my education beyond my BSN. Since I have a strong desire to learn about management and diagnosis of older adult conditions, I would like to pursue my career as a Geriatric Nurse Practitioner someday.

I once took care of an elderly lady whose husband of 56 years expired. He passed away from lung cancer, and she didn't have any family members to support her. She became so saddened by her loss that she refused to eat. Whenever I had extra time I offered support by sitting and listening to her. I wanted her to know that she had support, and that I cared. I believe this had a tremendous impact on her. She eventually began to accept meals and snacks from the facility, and with a little encouragement, she joined a social group on Friday evenings.

An usher at my place of worship once approached me stating "you will make a great usher because of your smile and personality." I have since taken the membership class, and I now usher every other Sunday. I am not a mentor at this time, but plan to become one in the near future. I'm hoping to impact youth boys and girls, by taking personal interest in their academic excellence, leadership skills, and growth and development. Also, I have been told by several of my co-workers that I have been a positive role model for the TMAs. A couple of them are now enrolled in college, and are taking required courses for the nursing program.