



# Caregiver

of the Year 2010

## Greenleaf Assisted Living, Brookings, SD, Caregiver of the Year Nomination

This year as well as immeasurable years to come, I would like to nominate one of the best caregivers I have ever had the pleasure to work with; her name is Mrs. Joy Sween. Joy has been a caregiver here at Greenleaf Assisted Living since 4-29-98. Joy came to our facility committed to making the lives of our residents much easier and more enjoyable, while maintaining each resident's right to privacy. Joy has worked the overnight shift for the entire time she's been with Greenleaf; she comes to work prepared and knows exactly what needs to be completed. When Joy is working her shifts I am comforted by the fact she's in house on duty, I know that Joy has the expertise to handle any and all situations that may arise, she does so with the confidence and knowledge only a caregiver possesses. There is no doubt in my mind that the residents are in great hands. I also know that the residents are sleeping soundly knowing this as well. I have worked with Joy on the "graveyard" shift and there's a cozy, protected feeling in the air when she's around. Joy tenderly walks up and down the wings checking to ensure residents are fast asleep in their beds. Joy is a very strong and competent person always eager to help wherever needed, regardless of the situation. Joy gives her whole heart, and does unselfishly, expecting nothing in return! Joy is eager to improve the quality of life for our residents going above and beyond, using that gentle, caring manner, as well as keeping in mind the fact that she needs to encourage independence and reserve their dignity.

On the night shift Joy doesn't have as much resident interaction as the day or evening shifts, but when a call light goes off Joy is right there tending to the residents needs by giving them medication for pain or perhaps simply just talking to them and helping them fall back to sleep. On the night shift Joy builds somewhat of a different type of a relationship with the residents, it's hard to describe but when she is there with them in the late hours of the night she radiates compassion, a soft kindness, if you will. She has a very special bond with the residents, they feel so cared for and watched over. When Joy visits with a resident one can feel the gentleness and caring she radiates. Joy has dedicated herself to providing quality care and service to the residents and dedicating yourself to long term care is more than a job, more than a career, it is a calling!

On the night shift there are many responsibilities, one of which would be one of the most important responsibilities and that would be helping with the preparation of the next days meals. Joy is an outstanding cook and prepares foods with the resident's nutritional needs at the top of her list. The talk around the dining room the next day is I bet Joy made this, she's such a wonderful, superb cook!

Also on the overnight shift Joy and her team mates are responsible for the monthly medication exchange. The med exchange is an enormous responsibility and Joy has mastered this with excellence. Joy was a little apprehensive at first about such an enormous responsibility but she has demonstrated to administration, herself and teammates that she has this task mastered!

In my opinion Joy Sween is totally worthy of the caregiver of the year award, and is way past due! Like I have said many times it takes a certain type of person to be a caregiver and Joy fits and succeeds this to a tee! I feel that Joy holds the true definition of a Caregiver, and should win this nomination because she truly wears the shoes that hold the title of Caregiver of the Year, 2010 and Countless Years to Come.

Joy is the daughter of the late  
Thelma Stewart.

Thank you,  
Sue Oines, Administrator  
and Connie Hoss, Assistant Administrator



# Greenleaf

Assisted Living Centers

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