



Home care givers honored for outstanding work

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By Lisa Waterman Gray Contributing Writer.

On Friday, June 16, Kansas City Home Care, Inc. honored several employees for their outstanding work with clients, during an awards presentation at Swope Park. Louvisha Bailey, CNA, was named Caregiver of the Year. Janice Breedlove, LPN was also honored.

In addition, two RNs received awards for outstanding performance as home health nurses. Anne Briginshaw, RN, BSN, MA, and CRRN, has worked PRN with Kansas City Home Care for 10 years, in addition to her full-time position at a local hospital.

"They've been good to me, as far as working around my hours," she said. At the moment, Briginshaw sets up medications for several individual clients each week.

She enjoys conversing with one client and finds it satisfying to communicate with the caregiver for another client about current care issues, such as incontinence, constipation, poor appetite, safe transfers and sleep problems. Briginshaw also has done several client assessments.

"One was to see if a couple met qualifications for insurance to cover their homecare," she said. "I also was an independent assessor of safety and quality-of-life issues for a male patient (Sc) that he could stay in his own environment."

"We're keeping these people in their homes," Briginshaw said. "I like seeing patients continue in their home environments for as long as possible."

Sandra Downing, RN, has worked with Kansas City Home Care since summer 2003. She provides some one-on-one care for the organization, and also does some office work, when she's not working full-time at a local hospital.

"In the last year and a half, I worked with one patient in hospice, with cancer, and perhaps in her early 70s," Downing said. "I was with her on the night she passed away. I feel I was privileged to be there, because my patients always teach me. Her dignity shone through during the last few weeks.

"I spent a couple of days with one hospice patient who was in his 80s and not

really aware of his family or us as caregivers. I also worked with one lady for a couple of days who lived in an assisted living place. She was as sharp as a tack. We assisted her with her daily care and stayed with her at night.

"I'm glad when people can stay in their own homes and have their own things around them," Downing said. "I think it's much easier for them, all-around."

Cheryl Smith, president and owner of Kansas City Home Care, a gerontologist and a board member for the National Private Duty Association, can't say enough about the professionalism of Briginshaw and Downing.

"Both of these nurses are wonderful. They're hardworking and they do a good job for us. They are very conscientious, and mindful of patient care. The only time either of them says 'no' to us is if she has a time conflict.

"Anne is part of our care management team. Under this area she did an assessment - she even spent the night with a patient to get a full assessment - and it will improve his quality of life so much. Sandy is our nurse of record for our Kansas license, and she manages our caregivers who work in licensed care."

Kansas City Home Care, Inc. provides home care services throughout Greater Kansas City. Founded in 1989, the agency offers services to help maintain client independence that include licensed nurses, certified nursing assistants, home health aides and geriatric care managers. Kansas City Home Care is a charter member of the National Private Duty Association, the first and oldest trade association for providers of non-medical home care in the United States.

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