

Denise Smith - 2009 PHCA Excellence in Caregiving Award

Denise Smith has been a LPN at Denver Nursing Home for 14 years, but has wanted to be a nurse since the age of 5. Caregiving has been a lifelong calling and commitment for her and she never stops working to improve her skills and be the best she can be.

Denise is always compassionate, calm and kind. Even in stressful situations she never loses her composure. She is a wonderful mentor to her fellow staffers and is very well respected by everyone at Denver Nursing Home. In fact, Denise has won the "Employee of the Month" award multiple times and was most recently recognized for being "an excellent nurse, a team player, respectful and a resident advocate."

Denise is an administrator but continues to be very involved in direct care going above and beyond the call of duty every day. When she sees a need or a chance for improvement she takes it on and develops a solution. Her own personal health struggles have made her very sensitive to the needs of residents and have helped her understand their feelings and frustrations. She uses her own free time to do things for residents like run errands and go with them to appointments if they do not have family members who can go with them. Denise develops very special relationships with residents and makes sure to honor them by attending the viewings and funerals for those who pass while at Denver. She is with them all the way.

Denise impacts the life of everyone she touches. Thank you notes from family and friends of residents almost always name Denise as someone special who really made a difference.