

The District II Nurse Aide of the Year is Linda Thompson. She has been a Certified Nursing Assistant for over twenty years and currently serves as a Care Partner for White Oak of Charlotte. In this role, she is responsible for mentoring and helping new CNA's get oriented to the residents they will care for. Linda's kindness when giving direction has made a great difference in how new CNAs handle themselves. Linda is an incredible role model and demonstrates the best techniques possible. This helps make the transition of care seamless and exceptional. Her support, teaching, and guidance help mold the future care givers in our industry!

A perfect example of this occurred in August of 2000. Linda was featured in an article in *The Charlotte Observer* focusing on the shortage of Certified Nursing Assistants in our state. The article, "Health Care Can't Hire Enough Caring Hands," followed her throughout her daily tasks of caring to each resident at our facility. Mecklenburg county resident Vicki McLain ran across the article. She was so moved by Linda's love, compassion, and grace as a caregiver that she came to the facility to apply for a job. Linda made her want to work where people truly care and Vicki has now worked at our facility since 2001! She says, "The article didn't do Linda justice. Even after twenty years she is only getting better. Linda is the true example of what every CNA should be. I have learned so much from watching her, working with her, and getting to know her."

Linda's ability to evoke comfort and love by just a touch is remarkable. This is especially observed by our resident's family members. Peggy Talbert met Linda after her mother had a stroke and could no longer live alone. She states, "Linda was not the only care giver for my mother, but she was her favorite. My mother was very attached to Linda and treated her as if she were her child. I observed Linda as she performed her duties and was amazed at how methodical her efforts were. She treated everyone with so much dignity and respect. Peggy continues, "I saw her bestow the love and kindness that she did for my mother to all her residents. She knew her duties and performed them well. My mother passed away in 2016 and Linda remains close to my family to this day. We remain forever grateful for the service that she continues to perform!"