

The 2020 Riley W. Clapp Outstanding Service Recipient is Mike Murrell. Mike works in the dietary department at Crystal Bluffs Rehabilitation and Health Care Center where he has been serving up delicious meals as an evening cook for over six years. He is the epitome of a dedicated, hard-working and loving spirit. He has shown his dedication to the entire organization through his consistency in performance not only to his job, but also to the residents and his coworkers.

Mike selflessly places the needs of others before his own! In 2018, he voluntarily led the Dietary Department on two separate occasions due to the loss of a coworker's mother and father. Mike personally handled admission visits and worked extended hours to ensure supplies were properly stocked, and he even canceled much of his holiday vacation so our Chef could spend the last few weeks with his father at the end of his life.

That same year, Mike was also a part of our team that sheltered in place for five days during Hurricane Florence. In addition to a full census of over 90 residents, we also had over 125 staff, family members, and guests from the community in need of care, safety and shelter from the storm. The area sustained winds at over 85 miles per hour for 18 hours straight, eventually switching the facility to generator power. The dietary department functioned with minimal lighting, but this did not prevent them from producing fresh, hot and delicious meals three times per day for all at our facility! Mike was the primary cook on the line during this experience and his gregarious, calming nature during a stressful situation allowed the flow on the line to continue to serve without issue. Following the hurricane, Mike immediately went out in the community grilling his own food at his church, offering support and friendship as the community began to rebuild following an unprecedented devastating 27+ inches of rain.

Mike's creativity and devotion to ensuring every resident and person feels important and receives their preferred, choice meal is a talent! He continuously leads the facility to successful customer feedback, staff and compliance surveys. He puts kindness and love in everything he touches. We can ask him for any request, and he does it with a smile. We appreciate all that Mike does for us!