

## Excellence in Practice Award

### Denise Snyder, LPN



Over the past 5 years, I have had the pleasure of working as an LPN with Denise Snyder. She has been an inspiration to me to work hard and to always strive for excellence. I sincerely believe she is deserving of this award for the dedication to the care she has provided others over the past 32 years.

Her staffs describe her as a patient, kind, always willing to listen to their concerns, strong work ethic and a great Manager.

Denise went to the College of Cape Breton and took a 2 year Business Degree, then decided to take the Licensed Practical Nursing Diploma to further her education. Denise graduated as a Licensed Practical Nurse in 1979. She first worked at the Blanchard Fraser Memorial Hospital in Kentville, Nova Scotia. She left the hospital to move to Calgary, Alberta where she says she learned the strong nursing values she carried throughout her career. Upon returning to Nova Scotia, she worked at Evergreen Nursing Home and soon realized it was not where she wanted to be. She states she was driving through Wolfville and noticed the Wolfville Nursing Home and went in to apply for a job in 1984. She was the first and only LPN to work as an LPN at this facility, due to the fact she was the only LPN with Pharmacology. During her time there she was head of the Occupational Health and Safety Committee and the shop steward for the union. She was noted to have strong leadership skills and was promoted in 1999 as LPN Supervisor of the Wolfville Elms; a Residential Care Facility within the family owned and operated company.

In 2002, she was promoted to Manager of the Wolfville Elms Then in 2008, due to her diligent work ethic, devotion to her job, exhibiting strong leadership and managerial skills and vast knowledge, she was asked to be the Manager of a new private assisted living facility in addition to her job at the Wolfville Elms. Denise contributed to the start-up of this facility by forming the policies and procedures, drawing up leases, dietary decisions and admissions to this new facility in collaboration with the owner/operator. She works closely with these three facilities in forming new policies, hiring staff, dietary and resident care plans. Denise has been a large contributing factor of the success of the company.

Denise demonstrates on a daily basis her commitment to excellence in her job and for the company. She displays strong communication skills and is a role model for her colleagues. She takes her responsibilities very seriously. She is always accessible and takes time to ensure tasks are completed in a timely manner. She takes pride and joy in her work both as a nurse and a Manager. She works over and above her job description. She inspires staff to take pride in their work as well as encouraging team work. Her main focus is always on the resident's safety and well-being. She ensures policies and procedures are up to date and ongoing training is given to staff to ensure residents get the best care provided to them. She has developed a close rapport with the residents, their families, the house doctor, Department of Health, the CEO and owner of the company and staff over her career.

She has compassion, empathy and is an advocate for the residents she cares for. She is always professional, dependable and passionate about her work.

Denise has taken time out of her busy schedule to talk with women for the Social Services "return to work" program as a role model for them to inspire hard work to achieve their goals.

The residents and staff of the Wolfville Elms and Wickwire Place Assisted Living Residence respect Denise and know that they can always count on her to do what is best for them.

Denise always puts her job before her personal life. It doesn't matter if you call her at 2 am, you will be received by a professional person who will say to you "it's ok" or "don't worry about it."