

2009 Hero Nomination
Mattie Bowser

It is easy to find people who can work with seniors but it is hard to find one who gives their time and their heart. Azalea Trails Assisted Living and Memory Care Community has been blessed to work with Mattie Bowser, Care Partner, for the past year. During this period, she has demonstrated a tremendous heart which nurtures the spirit of each memory care resident and family member. Mattie has also been blessed with a voice as big as Texas. She will sing any song she knows at the request of any of the residents.

Mattie develops a very close relationship with each resident in memory care. On a cold February evening, while making rounds, Mattie noticed a wife that was grieving over the illness of her husband. She approached the family and offered to sing a song, that was placed on her heart, to uplift their spirits. Mattie sings acappella, so no background music was needed for this blessing. She sang "Precious Lord" for the grieving family, not leaving a dry eye in the room. Mattie's voice was so comforting and pure. It helped heal the family's spirits and carried them through the following day, when their loved one passed. Upon completion, the wife of the ill resident asked Mattie to sing at her husband's funeral. Mattie was filled with honor, because she loved the resident as much as the family. The church friends and family members were so touched by the fact that they were hearing the last song the resident heard here on earth.

The Lord blessed Mattie with a kind heart and a beautiful voice, which she has generously shared with Azalea Trails' families and residents. It is rare to meet a person with loving and caring qualities as strong as Mattie Bowser. Mattie is truly a hero in our lives and the lives of the residents and families.