



2009 Hero Awards Nomination Form

Honor the hard-working employees and volunteers who help make your assisted living residents' lives more rewarding. Nominate someone you know for ALFA's 12th annual Hero Awards!

Nominee Cheryl Jaskiewicz

Award Category (check one): Executive Director Staff Member Caregiver Nurse Volunteer

Nominee's Title EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR Length of Service 1 yr.

Name of Community AZALEA TRAILS ASSTED Type of Community ASSISTED LIVING

Person Nominating HELEN GALBRAITH Title family member.

Name of Organization _____ Phone 903 882-8282

Email N/A Website N/A

Each community is limited to maximum of one nominee per category. Community/Parent Company must be a member of ALFA to be eligible to submit a nomination.

Nominees should be exemplary in promoting ALFA's philosophy of care and service:

- ◆ Offering cost-effective quality care that is personalized for the individual's needs
- ◆ Involving family and friends in care, when appropriate
- ◆ Protecting each resident's right to privacy
- ◆ Promoting the individuality of each resident
- ◆ Fostering independence for each resident
- ◆ Providing a safe, residential environment
- ◆ Nurturing the spirit of each resident
- ◆ Allowing each resident choice of care and lifestyle
- ◆ Treating each resident with dignity and respect in care planning and implementation
- ◆ Making the assisted living residence a valuable community asset

On a one page (8½ x 11), one-side typed (no less than 12 point font) document, please provide specific examples of why you are nominating this employee or volunteer. Winners will be awarded during ALFA's 2009 National Conference & EXPO, May 5-7, 2009 in Philadelphia, PA, where they will receive a complimentary conference registration & lodging for one night, a trophy, and a monetary award.

Please email, fax or mail this form and its accompanying nomination letter by February 13, 2009, to ALFA, attention: Nikki Crevey, 1650 King Street, Suite 602, Alexandria, VA 22314; email ncrevey@alfa.org, or fax to (703) 894-1831, or call (703) 562-1176 for more information.

To whom it may concern:
Re: Cheryl Jaskiewicz

Recently, my husband, Robert Galbraith passed away at the memory care unit at Azalea Trails Assisted Living Community. I am writing regarding my friend, Cheryl Jaskiewicz, and the way in which she related to me and my family during our experience.

When my husband moved into the facility in May, Cheryl had just moved into her position. From the beginning, I was made to feel like my husband and I were as important to her as her own family members. My concerns and my problems regarding my husband's care became her priority and they were addressed quickly and efficiently. She made it a point to meet my friends and family and even took some of them on a private tour of the facility. As my husband grew worse, we spent a lot of time together just talking and crying about how we hated to see my husband have to endure the terrible disease of Alzheimer's. We also talked often about the funny things he would say as each of us visited him individually. I am certain that Bob became very connected with Cheryl because of her interest in him and her sparkling personality.

When my husband was put on Hospice, I began to fret and stew about the possibility that he might need more extra help and we might have a financial problem. I would then return to my chair in the office, as usual, and be told that we would work together and solve the problem. Just before Bob became bedridden, Cheryl provided my family with an apartment stocked with snacks, a coffee pot, bath gel, lotion and everything we could possibly need. As I began to ask questions, Cheryl gently told me what to expect in the future. I did not need counseling because she was always readily available to reassure me.

My husband was always neatly dressed and immaculate before he became ill. I, as his wife, wanted to maintain his dignity even though he would not be seen by large numbers of people. I was never made to feel like I was being unreasonable. Everything from extra showers to making sure that his hair was clean and neat was addressed. It was even noted on his care plan that I put the matching shirts and pants on the same hanger. I know that Cheryl personally checked to make sure Bob did not spill snacks on his clothing when his daughter scheduled a visit.

It was my goal to make sure that my Bob maintained the best quality of life possible during his last days. There were times that when residents moved, Bob could have been relocated to another room. Because of the personality of some of the residents, Cheryl never made these changes because she was concerned about the best interest of each person. She always seemed to consider the needs of each resident and whether they would be compatible. When aides were chosen for Hospice, Cheryl always made sure that Bob would get a woman because he responded to them more readily. All of his little individual differences were noted on his care plan.

Cheryl captured my heart during the months that Bob lived in confined care. I grew to love her and I saw how she is loved by her staff as well.

Helen Galbraith