



Angel of the Month: *Hutchins Bernard*

Hutchins began working with Visiting Angels in July 2016. During her interview, Hutchins was described as extremely experienced, passionate, very intelligent, compassionate and with an excellent demeanor. Hutchins has always been a Case Manager favorite, being described as a true gem.

Hutchins was born and raised in Haiti. She came to the United States in 2009, following her husband who arrived earlier in the year. Most of her family has settled in New York City and New Jersey. Hutchins and her husband have one son who is 11-years-old and a daughter who is five. She and her family belong to a local church where her son attends bible study and they participate in various events. Her daughter enjoys dance classes and being the star of her recitals. Hutchins loves to spend time with her family, shop and watch movies when she is not working.

Hutchins received her degree in accounting when she was in Haiti but switched career paths and focus to her true passion when she came to the United States. She graduated from nursing school as an LPN. She is taking her time studying for the board exam, enjoying the time she has with her current Clients.

When Hutchins was 12 years-old, she spent her summer caring for her grandmother each day when her aunt went to work. It was during this time that Hutchins experienced something that would change her life forever. One day she was caring for her grandmother (alone) and her grandmother had a severe stroke.

The stroke left her grandmother without mobility on her left side and unable to speak. Hutchins realized then that she wanted to care for the elderly, specifically those who could not care for themselves. She and her family worked hard to care for her grandmother. She was taught at a very young age to value her elders and show them kindness and compassion.

Hutchins has worked with 23 Clients over the past two years! She has been consistent and dedicated to each Client, handling challenges head on and with professionalism. Hutchins has come through for on-call staff and Case Managers many times, accepting fill-in shifts and emergencies. Even skeptical Clients who are naturally uncomfortable with substitutes have consistently given positive feedback. Several Clients and their families call to request Hutchins for more shifts.

Hutchins is working with an ALS Client that she has been with for the past year. The Client calls her "Hutch", and describes her as, "wonderful". Hutchins' Client felt instantly at ease with her and began to trust her almost immediately. He is continuously grateful for her outstanding care. Hutchins and her Client have developed a beautiful and special bond.

Thank you, Hutchins. We are so fortunate to have such an experienced and dedicated person, providing quality care to our Clients. It is a pleasure to work with you, and you are truly an angel. We hope to continue to work with you for many years to come.