



Angel of the Month: Rita Amankwah

It brings us great joy to award Rita Amankwah Angel of the Month for December 2019. Rita began working with Visiting Angels Newton/Canton in April 2014. Rita was described as knowledgeable, bright, and caring in her initial interviews.

Rita relocated to Massachusetts from Ghana in 2001 to join her husband. She has one daughter who remained in Ghana but will be coming to MA in January. Her daughter just graduated first in her class with a degree in Human Resources. Rita happily was able to attend her graduation. Rita has two sons, one has his own marketing business in New York City, and the other is training to become a commercial pilot in Florida. Rita travels to Florida whenever possible to visit her son and his family, especially her three-year-old granddaughter, with whom she FaceTimes and calls daily. She has a sister in Ghana and another sister in London. Rita enjoys traveling around the United States whenever possible and visits family in Ghana at least once a year. She has also had the opportunity to go to London to visit her eldest sister.

Rita was a military school teacher in Ghana for over fifteen years. She also cared for her grandmother during that time. While preparing to come to Massachusetts, she researched various career opportunities in the states and decided to pursue certification as a Home Health Aide and become a professional caregiver. Rita worked with multiple agencies before joining Visiting Angels Newton/Canton and learned to assist elderly clients with ailments, including dementia and Parkinson's disease. Rita has been a professional caregiver for over twenty years now.

Rita is the Vice President of the Women's Fellowship at Rhema Gospel Church International, which has many parishioners from Ghana, and support programs offered to the Ghanaian community. She enjoys reading, shopping, and traveling whenever she has free time.

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Rita has adopted a very pragmatic philosophy about handling the, at times, difficult job of being a professional caregiver; “You have to have patience and love what you do to be a successful caregiver and provide the services your clients and their families require. You cannot allow challenging situations to affect the quality of care you are giving to someone. Put yourself in their shoes; You were once independent, doing basic tasks for yourself, and now you have to rely on someone else to do these things for you.”

Rita has worked with nine Visiting Angels Newton/Canton clients in all, and when we assign Rita to work with a new client, whether ongoing or for a fill-in, we know that we are assigning a highly-skilled and professional caregiver; a person with strong values and tremendous empathy and compassion as well as someone who will provide valuable feedback when needed.

We are truly honored to award Rita Angel of the Month for December. We could not have chosen a better person to close out 2019: Rita’s professionalism, calm demeanor, enthusiasm, and wisdom, represents the best qualities in a professional caregiver. We value you as a member of the Visiting Angels Newton/Canton team and are grateful for your commitment to your clients.

We look forward to continuing our work together for years to come.