



## Angel of the Month: Rita Sarpong

We are delightfully honored to award Rita Sarpong Angel of the Month for July 2019. Rita began working with Visiting Angels Newton/Canton in April 2018. Rita was described as outgoing, conscientious, and compassionate in her initial interviews.

Rita has been a Massachusetts resident for over 22 years. Rita has five siblings in Ghana, and one living in Germany, which she hopes to visit in the future. Rita, her daughter, and her mother live together, and she cares for her mom. She and her daughter, who is a manager at Macy's department store, have hectic schedules so they value mother-daughter time with lunches and day trips whenever they can. Rita also loves being a part of her church community and attending services on Sundays.

Rita's friend suggested she look into the home care field in 2005. Being that caring for others has always been in her nature, Rita was excited to make the career change. She took her courses and became CNA and HHA certified. Rita has worked with many agencies and Clients and consistently says that she has enjoyed working with Visiting Angels Newton/Canton most of all. "Visiting Angels has been so kind and encouraging. Everyone supports me and shows their appreciation for my work."

Rita has had six Clients since she came on board with Visiting Angels Newton/Canton. One of her Clients was 98 years old at the time and had recently suffered a serious fall. Rita worked overnight shifts for her. Rita showed great patience and kindness while caring for her Client. Although this was a short-term case, the Client's family was so appreciative of the care she provided; they expressed sincere gratitude for all that she did for their loved one.

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Rita started her first shift for her current Client on Valentine's Day of 2019, and she has been with her ever since. Rita was perfectly matched with her Client, and the two genuinely enjoy each other's company. Her Client has congestive heart failure and is on continuous oxygen. Choosing the comfort of her home, she and Rita have long conversations, and watch her preferred game shows, along with the news together. Rita will make special trips to the supermarket and bring her Client her favorite foods and desserts. When asked what she and her Client's most enjoyable activities, are, she said, "My Client and I love to watch Wheel of Fortune, Jeopardy, and Family Feud together. She tells me a lot of things I didn't know about. She always says to me, "Go to your little machine and Google it....(Meaning the cell phone.)"

Rita has continually gone above and beyond in many ways for her Clients. She is knowledgeable and professional while being thoughtful in learning what makes her Client comfortable, bringing out their personality, and building a relationship of trust. She is a great advocate and communicates well with Case Managers, other Caregivers, Clients, and their families. Rita is a shining star and a pleasure to work with.

Rita, we cannot thank you enough for your positive energy, hard work, and dedication to each of your Clients. Your consideration and desire to go above and beyond for the people you care for is inspiring. We value you as a member of the Visiting Angels Newton/Canton team and look forward to working with you for years to come.