

Caring, Compassionate Nature Leads To This Cool Job

If a teenager thinks your job is cool; then, it is a **cool** job. Roslin V. Davis, says her 17-year-old son, Jaleal, thinks his mom's job is cool. Davis never saw herself in the job she now holds: she is Licensed Assisted Living Administrator for Mecklenburg House in South Hill.

Mecklenburg House is an assisted living community that offers seniors and the mentally-challenged, the opportunity to live in comfort surrounded by a caring staff that are well trained in a variety of resident needs.

As administrator, Davis is a great example of how Southside Virginia Community College offers career pathways for the students. She graduated from Park View High School in 1992. She did not return to school until 2008 when she entered the Certified Nurse Aide program. Besides the CNA course, she also received Medication Aide Technician certification and Phlebotomy and took other classes at the college with a medical concentration.

Her career road led her to work as a CNA at Meadowview Terrace, a nursing home facility in the area and later, she arrived at Mecklenburg House as a Medication Technician. Due to her work ethic and love of the people she cares for, Davis was soon asked to participate in the Administrator in Training Program offered through the American Retirement Homes, Inc. This is a family-owned management company that has been enhancing the lives of seniors in Virginia since 1968.

"I was eligible to participate in this program because of the classes and credits I received at Southside. If not for my work at SVCC the gateway would never have been opened," Davis said.

She completed the coursework and licensure and became Administrator in August of 2014.

Now, it is her pleasure and joy to manage the care of 32 residents at the home, some who have mental issues or have no other home. The residents range in age from 40 to 93, Davis knows each one and notes, "I learn a lot from each one of them."

Her positive outlook and obvious love for her wards is evident in her smile and calm demeanor.

"Making this work is a team effort. The staff and I work together, I ask them what their opinion is and what is best for each individual," she said

She oversees the dietary staff who provide three home cooked meals and snacks daily. She manages the maintenance department, CNAs and Medication Aids as well. Davis is on-call for the facility 24/7, however there is staff at the Mecklenburg House caring for the residents at all time.

She loves interaction with the residents. They play bingo, cards, invite outside groups to visit, bands and churches and sometimes, take short road trips. Davis shops weekly for home and resident needs and takes residents to appointments.

Part of the reason her youngest son thinks her job is cool is because she is an award-winning administrator. Davis was named the 2017 Diamond Award Virginia Assisted Living

Association's Administrator of the Year recently. This award is given for those who demonstrate outstanding leadership on behalf of the assisted living industry.

Catherine Birley, President of American Retirement Homes, notes in a video about the award Davis' extreme friendliness and compassion. She said, "She exhibits every single trait one wants in an administrator. She is a superstar administrator."

Davis is a single mother with two sons. Jaleal is a junior at Park View High School, where he is an outstanding student. The oldest, Javon, received his associates at SVCC and continued on to complete his bachelors and masters at Virginia Commonwealth University.

Davis caring, friendly and calm nature has taken her far in her career choice. Visiting at Mecklenburg House, it becomes evident that Davis possess the greatest trait of all; to love and be loved in return.