

Candy Saunders, cont'd

"Candy has been volunteering at Evergreen Adult Day Center for over 2 years now. Every Friday she walks in with a bright smile and lights up the room. All our clients love to see her knowing she brought a little something extra for that day that will be sure to bring laughter and joy throughout the center. Candy had previously worked as an activities director in St Pete and she has brought so many ideas, crafts and activities for the clients and staff to enjoy. Her weekly trivia and reflections get you reminiscing whether young or older. Candy has provided goodies at all of our holiday events and goes that extra mile to sit with a client who may be struggling or dancing with some of the gentleman and ladies when we have live entertainment. At our Older Americans Celebration, Candy provided many props including costumes, jewelry, fancy tops, hats, make up and flowers to dress up our clients so they felt a little extra special. This is one specific instance that Candy has just shined bright and gone over and beyond. She took some beautiful photos that we have hung at the center as a reminder of the laughter the clients all shared that day. As a nurse, activities are not my strong point; Candy has gone over and beyond sending me ideas and bringing activities in that our clients can all engage in despite their varying levels of assistance. There are some weeks where Candy has a little extra time and comes to visit us for an hour or two. During lunch she makes sure all clients have their little extras that they typically request. She gives each client time to chat and really listens to their needs. The program assistants feel a sense of relief on Fridays knowing Candy will be in because of her assistance with the clients and activities. She will help the clients who may tend to wander, giving staff the ability to provide a little extra attention to the clients who may want more activity and exercise stimulation. I cannot say enough wonderful things of how this one extraordinary volunteer has impacted Evergreen Day Center in such a positive way. Her genuine kindness is what we all need and look forward to it each week!"

Thanks, Candy, for making our clients feel so cherished! Anyone can submit a volunteer for this column! Just email <u>Hilary</u>!