

Meet Senait Wubneh –

CNA at Adams Healthcare Facility and Riverland Nursing Student, Austin

1) Why did you decide on a career in the Healthcare sector and who or what influenced you to decide on this career choice?

The most important factor was that I wanted to help people in some sort of way and also give back to society. When I lived in Kenya my grandfather was bedridden for a few months, so that pushed me towards healthcare after seeing all of his needs and attending to him. When I came here I got a job as a Resident Care Assistant, which gave me a huge sense of fulfillment, and I knew I wanted to continue on in healthcare. I obtained my CNA certification in 2016 and have been working as a CNA since then, and started the RN program this fall at Riverland. I expect to graduate in December 2019 and then continue my education for BSN.

2) What is the most rewarding part of your work?

Hearing from the residents how much they appreciate you, having them remember you from day to day and look forward to see you, or sharing a moment where you are laughing together and connecting on some level.

3) What have you found to be the most challenging aspect of working in the healthcare field, or pursuing higher education in the healthcare field?

You have to work hard, and need lots of patience. You also have to learn to be an advocate, and know how to fit your personality into the job description. Naturally I'm more of a quiet person but working in healthcare has taught me to be more assertive and speak up when I need to. You have to be able to stand your ground and deal with a lot of other influences as well.

4) What education, experience, and/or key job competencies are needed for the majority of positions available at Adams Care Center?

I would say the main competencies are integrity, patience, and humility. Working as a CNA in a Skilled care facility requires you to have that certification, or to be able to obtain it within 100 days. Other places will let you start working as a resident care assistant and then you can see if you like that well enough to continue on to the next step of CNA certification. Being a TMA (passing meds)

requires extra training, and then there is LPN which is a year-long program, RN is 2 years, and a BSN is 4 years of education.

5) Job outlook/employment trends: Are healthcare occupations currently in high demand? What do you predict the demand for healthcare occupations will be in the future?

There is a huge demand for healthcare positions due to the aging population and baby boomers starting to need more care. Ironically, lots of schools are upping their criteria and becoming more selective for their students pursuing healthcare because there just isn't the same amount of people available to help train you on the floor as there used to be and regulations are much stricter than they used to be. No matter what kind of facility you work in, there is always a shortage of workers and many people are overworked.

6) Have you seen any ways the healthcare industry has changed since you first started working?

Obviously there continues to be a higher demand for healthcare workers and I don't expect this to slow down anytime soon. I've also seen a greater respect of residents' privacy, as well as tighter regulations when it comes to patient care and elder abuse or neglect. A facility's reputation can be badly damaged if people aren't abiding by these rules and treating their patients with absolute care and respect.

7) What advice do you have for someone who's thinking about pursuing a career in the healthcare field?

Just go for it! Make sure it's from the heart and not for any other reason other than to help others who need you. It's not easy -- it takes a physical and emotional toll on you, but it's definitely worth it and very rewarding.