

Nurse Excellence

Marie Edouard, LPN

August 2022



Meet Marie.

Can you tell us about yourself?

I grew up on the bedtime stories of nursing adventures and as a young child I envisioned myself in nursing scrubs. My mother was a Certified Nursing Assistant all the years and it was part of her identity, like her eyes were brown. I spent my early childhood living with my parents in Manhattan. When I turned five, my sister and I went to live with my uncle in Haiti, my mother's home county. When I came back at the age of eleven, my original plans to be a nurse were somehow forgotten. I had a desirous pull for fashion, always being the friend whom you call for advice on what to wear, and I wanted to turn my hobby into a job. I enrolled in school for pattern making and technology, it was a fascinating experience. There were many pre-

sentations taking place, I remember one remarkable session with the legendary designer, Oscar De La Renta. Once I held my license, I went searching for a job in the fashion district of Manhattan. After loads of job interviews, it was uncanny that I, despite my talent, could not manage to get hired. My mother and cheerleader, who pushed herself until she owned her own home in Queens, who raised three kids on her own, would not let me get down or discouraged. She taught me that this was not meant to be and pointed out that the fashion skills I acquired will serve me useful in my personal life. She reminded me that she was a CNA all the years, and hey, nursing would be a suited profession for me. And so, it was.

Do you have family members who are nurses?

My mother was a CNA and I have one cousin who is an RN. My sister was always more like my dad, who is still actively working as an engineer for NASA twice a week, at the proud age of 88. He was on the team working to launch the first spaceship to the moon, and he has since retired but was begged to rejoin by his colleagues and supervisors. My sister has relocated to Canada, working as an engineer for NASA too.

When did you head into the nursing field, and what are your future career goals?

In 1993 I first explored my options, and I joined a CNA training program, an easy 3-month program making the perfect introduction to nursing. Then, I accepted my first and favorite employment in a nursing home. At that point in my life, I was all around the States seeing places and still deciding where to settle. In 1999, I did my LPN in Maryland. Then I enrolled for my RN program in 2014 with Med-Life Institute in Florida. I graduated the training program and am currently working to pass my NCLEX. I dream of moving to Florida and joining the White Glove Florida Team.

If you can change the perspective of more healthcare professionals, what aspect would you address?

Like you and me, patients are real people. When you enter a patient's room, they feel if you are there with an air that you really want to be elsewhere. When you come to work, leave your dirty laundry in the car, and just smile. Give them your best. And oh, just because they are sick and weak, doesn't mean you should dress them like a clown with a green top and orange bottom and yellow socks. I love to help my patients look and feel great, whether by helping them apply makeup if they are up to it, or making their hair look nice. Their dignity is faltering by being so dependent on others, at least this gives them a sense of being a person. We would say your fashion history kicks into your nursing!

Did you ever have to compromise on something and then it turned out better than expected?

Yes! I always preferred the Geriatric population. It is so me, just being there and listening to their life story, seeing the youthful glint in their eyes as they recite their childhood tales. I just love it!

During the COVID high of 2020, many families were afraid to have a caregiver work in their homes, thus when I was looking for a new homecare assignment during that time, there was a shortage of Geri cases in my area. My staffing coordinator identified a family that was in dire need of a nurse for their 3-year-old son, very close to my home. At first, I was hesitant, but it was the best thing I did. It is a joyful experience seeing the transformation every day. I am a mother of two grown boys, a happy grandma of two grandsons, who I love dearly. But I call my little patient a grandson too. I have helped him reach his milestones, seen him start walking and now we are working on toilet training. We greet each other with a hug, and he is thrilled to see me on the days I come.

Any advice you would like to share with the devoted White Glove Community Care nurses?

You are the person in charge of your day. If you pounce into your job fifteen minutes late, all running and out of breath, you just ruined it for yourself, inviting intensity and stress. On the contrary, when arriving sometime earlier, giving yourself time to relax, drink a coffee or take a stroll you gave yourself and your patient the gift of starting your day right.

[Click Here For More](#)