

Employee Of The Month: Carol Buckner



Carol Buckner has served as a Home Friend with New Community for 11 years.

“Choose a job you love, and you will never have to work a day in your life.” That saying can be easier said than done, but for Carol Buckner, it rings true.

She has been a Home Friend with New Community Corporation for 11 years and says, “I love what I do.”

As part of the Home Friends Program, Buckner provides Central Ward residents with services not covered by Medicaid, including laundry, meal preparation, food shopping, cooking and companionship.

Her favorite part of the job? Talking with the clients.

“I build a relationship with them,” Buckner said.

One of those clients is 99-year-old Blanche Fleming who lives at Commons Senior, 140 South Orange Ave., Newark. Buckner has served as her Home Friend for about eight years.

“She’s excellent. I’ve never had complaints about her at all. And she’s been coming to me ever since I came out of the hospital, twice a week,” Fleming said. “She’s a very, very wonderful person.”

In addition to being complimented by clients, Buckner also receives praise from her supervisor.

“She is a very punctual employee, always on time at her post and with all her reports, friendly with clients and other staff. Carol is very smart and loves helping others. If a coworker is not sure about something or might not know what to do, she is right on it and helps out,” said Home Friends Coordinator Giselle Oviedo. “Ms. Buckner assists a total of 10 clients per week. They are all very pleased and tell me she is like family to them. I am blessed to have her as part of the Home Friends Program.”

Before joining New Community as a Home Friend, Buckner worked in housekeeping at the Park Manor nursing home. She came across the Home Friend position while going to school and decided to apply since she already had a housekeeping background.

She’s very happy with her decision. “I like the interactions better than the nursing home,” she said.

Buckner lives in Newark and has five children, three girls and two boys, ranging in age from 13 to 31. Four of her children currently live with her and all of their names begin with the letter S.

“They’re my S team,” she said.

On a typical day, Buckner gets up, gets her youngest daughter ready for school, puts her on the bus and then catches a bus herself to visit with her clients between the hours of 8 a.m. and 4 p.m.

She mainly serves clients at New Community properties, but she does have a client who owns her own home.

The work she does for her clients is very meaningful to them.

“It means a lot because I’m on a walker. I can’t reach up on the high shelves,” Fleming said. “Things I need to have done, she does it for me.”

All her clients live alone, so they also enjoy the company she provides.

“I love the program,” Buckner said. “I have no complaints about it.”