

## EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH: Paul François



Paul François has served as a licensed practical nurse (LPN) at New Community Extended Care for two years.

Paul François can be found on the third floor at New Community Extended Care, serving as a licensed practical nurse (LPN) for residents. She very much enjoys her position and says she has learned a lot working at the facility.

François was born and raised in Haiti and moved to Canada with her family when she was 16. It was there that she decided to become a nurse. While living in Canada, her grandmother was sick and the family wanted to keep her at home instead of sending her to a facility. Family members took turns caring for her. François' sister was in college at the time and was available during the day. When François came home from school, she took care of her grandmother in the evenings.

The experience made her realize she wanted to help elderly people as a nurse and it has stuck with her to this day.

“Whatever patient I’m with, my grandmother pops in my head,” she said.

Because of that, François tries to treat every patient like family.

“I call them my kids,” she said of her patients.

Members of the administration at Extended Care have taken notice of François.

“Mrs. Paul has been a dedicated, unprejudiced, hardworking staff member to NCC. She has devoted her time to care for our residents and she goes beyond and above the call of duty to fill in,” said New Community Extended Care Administrator Veronica Onwunaka. “Whenever any staff calls out, even if it’s not convenient for her, she will find an alternative for her own issues and come over to care for our residents.”

François became an LPN in 2008. She worked at other facilities and for an agency before starting her work at Extended Care. She learned about the opening from former Director of Nursing Beverly Spencer, who she worked with at another facility.

As an LPN, François completes a variety of tasks each day, including taking vital signs, giving assessments, assisting with medications, calling pharmacies and calling families of patients when needed. She also will perform tasks typically handled by certified nursing assistants (CNAs) if they are busy.

François believes working at Extended Care has helped her grow in her profession.

“I consider myself a nurse but I say thanks to New Community because New Community taught me a lot,” she said. “I learned a lot from this place.”

She is currently working toward becoming a registered nurse (RN) and has almost completed the requirements. It has been difficult to finish because her husband is sick. François has family members helping care for her husband while she’s at work, but she takes care of him when she gets home.

François sees her work at Extended Care as more than a job and a paycheck.

“Working here, it’s helping me and I’m helping them. I don’t really see only the money. I see the benefits of my clients,” she said. “I need the money to survive too but I don’t give the money priority. If I have to do it sometimes in my free time, I really don’t care. Because you have to help.”