



Leoni Ellis

Home Health Aide

Selfhelp Community Services

Ms. Ellis goes above and beyond with a 91 year old Holocaust Survivor client, for whom Selfhelp Community Services is Guardian. This client is a survivor of Auschwitz and while resilient, remains deeply traumatized.

Though Ms. Ellis was not explicitly trained in providing person-centered trauma-informed (PCTI) care, her instinctive approach to serving this client demonstrates an intuitive understanding of PCTI care.

Ms. Ellis is always thinking of new ways to make sure her client is comfortable and well cared for, and always makes sure to reach out to the care team with updates regarding her status. This particular client has dementia and cannot verbalize her needs. Ms. Ellis has become attuned to recognizing the client's body cues in order to determine the best way to assist. Since Ms. Ellis' client has always valued her appearance, and although she is now basically homebound, Ms. Ellis always tries to make sure she is well dressed and her nails are painted. She also used to love going to the senior center for lunch, but between COVID and her physical limitations, it has now become more difficult for her to go, so Ms. Ellis makes a point to go out every day and bring the senior center lunch back to the apartment for her.

Ms. Ellis recognizes the importance of socialization to her client's overall wellbeing, and has taken it upon herself to arrange visits with friends, which has definitely raised the client's spirits. Showering is an activity that has always been a struggle for this client, in part because of her association of showers with gas chambers due to her Holocaust trauma. Ms. Ellis went out of her way to speak with the super and set up a special hose in the bathroom to make bathing an easier and less traumatic process. She is an incredibly devoted worker, who is also efficient at everything she does, and it is apparent that her client feels extremely comfortable with her.

Ms. Ellis has worked with this client for almost four years and her commitment and dedication are incredibly deserving of this recognition.