



## COMPASSION NOMINATION EXAMPLE

**Please note, there are no required word counts. This is an example to provide inspiration.**

NAME is the epitome of the compassionate caregiver. She is the heart and soul of the Renal Center. She has worked for MINISTRY for around 30 years, and is notable for her impeccable clinical skills, drive for excellence and knowledge, and incredible dedication. But there are many excellent clinical caregivers. What sets NAME apart is her wholehearted compassion, her ability to see people, both coworkers and patients, as unique individuals deserving of compassion, dignity, and the extra mile that makes all the difference between providing simply excellent clinical care and excellent, compassionate, and sacred clinical care. As I reflected on preparing this nomination this week, I realized that she provided many examples of compassion in the span of just the last few days.

The first example is over lunch this week we were talking about the catholic concept of “Corporal Acts of Mercy” and she told a story from when she first started working with DOCTOR and the Renal Center as an acute dialysis nurse. She told us about a dialysis patient that had just gone onto hospice service. He called her and asked her to visit him at his home, so she visited him with another RN. It was around the holidays and they were talking about special foods they made with him, and she told him she was going to make a pork roast and sauerkraut dish. He said it was one of his favorites. The hospice nurse said she could give him a small piece of it, even though he was at that time in and out of consciousness. He opened his eyes and she placed a piece of the sauerkraut on his tongue. He looked at his wife, and said, “she is a keeper”, then closed them and drifted off again. His daughter called NAME the next day and said that was his last meal and thanked her for providing it and making him so happy.

It was this same patient that NAME told us gave her the idea for sewing shirts for patients with zippers, so they can open up for their vascular access, to provide privacy, protect the shirt from rips or blood, and so they would not be too cold. For over 25 years now she has been purchasing the shirts and zippers, getting them sewn, and giving them to patients. Despite her inability to sew, she makes this happen by either paying someone or enlisting others to sew the shirts. I can't even count how many patients to whom she has gifted this special shirt over the years.

Another example is just yesterday, one of our former pediatric patients who had moved away was hospitalized. She saw he was in the hospital and asked his former social worker to go with her to visit him. She spent time with this patient, catching up on his new life, and reminding him how valued he is to this unit (he was our patient as a newborn all the way until age 22). She then called his mom to catch up with her and let her know she had visited him. After that visit, she went upstairs to the Acute Dialysis unit, just to say hello to the staff and see if they needed anything.

NAME knows a little bit of something about everybody. She makes everyone - from our EVS staff to administrative to clinical staff - feel valued, special, and more than just an employee. Every time we have a meal or potluck, she takes a plate of food out to the valet parking staff member that sits at the entrance to our building.

She learns a little bit of the language for every single patient – even just a “How are you?” in their native language so they feel unique and special. She has learned Arabic, Spanish, Cantonese, mandarin, Vietnamese, Turkish, and many other languages.

When she rounds on the patients in her work for the Nephrology doctors she will take a seat at the

chair side (unheard of for rounding doctors usually) and spend as long as needed to educate them and provide a compassionate attitude of understanding.

NAME feeds our souls and our bellies. The atmosphere in the office is different when NAME is here. She is always singing, always happy, and brings joy and a wonderful "vibe" that we miss when she is not here. She regularly brings in food for the staff, and organizes gatherings. She celebrates every little thing with people, showing a genuinely happy spirit for others for big and small things. She feeds our souls with her wonderful attitude and slightly off key singing voice too.

NAME has volunteered for around 25 years for a sleep away camp for dialysis patients. She gives up a week of her time every June, unpaid, to work at the camp providing dialysis to kids who otherwise would not be able to attend a camp. One year she paid the fee for a child who could not afford to go without this sponsorship. I suspect she has done that more than one time, because she does not advertise her works of mercy, she simply sees a need and meets it, with heart, soul, and utter Godly compassion.