

MARIE CARLINE CHARLES

Head Nurse

NYC Health + Hospitals/McKinney



Marie Carline Charles, a long time nurse at Dr. Susan Smith McKinney, can trace her desire to become a nurse back to her early childhood. As a young woman growing up in rural Cayes, Haiti she took care of grandparents in their tender old age. Being present during their final days and having the opportunity to provide them with compassionate care opened her heart to providing care to others.

Thus, in her 19 years of service at McKinney, one of her most memorable moments is watching her residents complete their rehabilitation. An amazing site to see is the progression of a resident who has come post CVA, who at admission couldn't feed themselves but at discharge could

walk out of the facility with the capability to perform their ADLS.

She says another benefit of being at McKinney, is being part of a group that gets to serve an underserved population. McKinney is part of the East Flatbush community that makes up a diverse group of individuals who participate within the public health system. These individuals face tribulations and stigmas each day and as a nurse within the HHC system, Ms. Charles cherishes the opportunity to help them overcome their misfortunes.

This ties into her motivation to continue being a nurse everyday. While others may have grown weary during this unprecedented time, it has only strengthened her resolve to continue her mission of helping and keeping the elderly healthy.

As she looks towards the future, Ms. Charles is aware that in all aspects of healthcare, improvement is necessary. Specifically, the establishment of shared governance. This is one of the major models that assist in assessing the areas that require improvement, while building a better work environment for nurses, and keeping the nursing retention rates up.

"Ultimately, Nursing is a science and an art that is made up of a variety of skill sets. Some of which can be taught, and others that are innate" she states. The art of compassion is one that Ms. Charles believes should be within every nurse.

"Compassion is important in the work that we do because it is through compassion that we build safe spaces that allow our residents to provide us with important information about their health histories," she continues. "This in turn permits us to utilize evidence-based practice to formulate the best individualized plan of care for them."