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NYC Health + Hospitals | Coney Island Hospital



Nursing could be called “the family business” for Megan Alyssa Leyesa, who boasts a registered nurse mother and a nursing assistant father. “Growing up there were times where I went to work with them and saw what it meant to be a nurse, and that was being able to put others needs before your own,” she points out. “I saw this firsthand when both my grandmothers became ill, one with colon cancer and the other from a stroke. My parents utilized their ability, knowledge and skills to provide care and comfort to my grandmothers, to ease their time of suffering. Seeing this inspired me to strive for a career in nursing, so that I am able to understand different diseases and provide quality care to those who are sick.”

Leyesa says providing compassionate care is her major motivation, a quality that she has demonstrated time and again during the ongoing global health crisis. “During the spike of the pandemic, I was able to help countless amounts of patients during the worst time of their life by providing comfort and care as best as I could,” she notes. “It gave me relief and happiness to see a number of patients that were under my care recover from the illness and be safely discharged from the hospital and reunited with their families. The bittersweet goodbyes with the patients that I met were worth it knowing that I was able to return them back to their loved ones alive.

“Nursing is more than just performing physical assessments and medication administration; it is being able to understand what each of your patients is going through and providing care that will help them feel comfortable,” she explains. “During my shifts, I take the time to develop a professional relationship with each of my patients, assuring them that I am there to assist them in any way that I can. I welcome any questions or concerns they may have regarding their care and educate them on necessary actions needed to improve their health for the future.”

Leyesa points out that being a public health nurse allows her to serve a diverse patient population, enabling nurses “to see and experience different types of cases, enhancing critical thinking and knowledge. Coney Island Hospital has a positive community where nurses are able to get support and guidance from leadership when needed” she remarks, noting that she started as a float nurse, which gave her exposure to different units and situations. “I met a great many people who taught me and helped me become the nurse I am today.

“My patients help me to grow and mature as a registered nurse,” she continues. “In addition, as a nurse I have the opportunity to collaborate with multidisciplinary teams, which enables me to learn from others and expand on my knowledge.”

Professional development and continuing improvement are ongoing goals for Leyesa. "I want to make improvements that will increase nurse satisfaction along with patient satisfaction," she asserts. "Both aspects work together: if nurses are satisfied, it improves the delivery of care to patients. This past year, I was chosen to be the lead for the medical- surgical shared governance committee. This committee helps promote professional practice while giving nurses the opportunity to help make decisions affecting themselves, colleagues and their patients. I have discussed this wonderful opportunity to the nurses within the facility and have encouraged nurses to become part of the committee so that together we can work toward common goals and improvements."