

SHANTI JAGNARINE, BSN, RN

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Personal experience and a passionate desire to help others drew Shanti Jagnarine to the nursing profession. "I was inspired to become a nurse because it was my parents' dream since I was a young girl, she relates. "I think they realized my calling long before I did.

Her own familiarity with healthcare situations also drives her to seek constant improvements. "Having a loved one also receiving dialysis makes me have a better understanding of the challenges many dialysis patients and their families may experience," she says. "Hence, to improve things is my way of enhancing their experience and satisfaction, which will have a profound impact on their overall health.

Nursing can be both challenging and rewarding, Jagnarine notes. "Being a nurse in the public health system can be very challenging in that it is physically, mentally, emotionally, and demanding at times," she explains. "However, at the end of the day, I feel an incredible sense of satisfaction and pride working for a system serves mostly those that are uninsured and underserved in New York City.

"My greatest motivation to continue being a nurse is knowing that I am able to provide a treatment, which can be a life- saving measure for many critically ill patients," she adds, noting that the ongoing global health crisis has reinforced her views about nursing. "My most memorable moments had to be during the peak of the COVID-19 pandemic, where I witnessed acts of compassion, courage, and heroism among my coworkers in every department," she recalls. "As one of the first nurses to collaborate with my other team members to take care of COVID patients while trying to understand and treat the illness, I felt a great sense of accomplishment, knowing that my contributions save lives and made a difference."

Jagnarine says that she strives to always deliver care with compassion. "The value of compassion mostly resonates with me because with compassion comes accountability, respect, excellence and Integrity," she points out. "No matter how long it has been since I took care of a patient, the patient remembers me as their nurse. They may or may not remember my name, but they remember the acts of kindness and compassion that I render."