

**YELENA SHEVCHENKO, RN, BSN, MSA, COS-C**

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Yelena Shevchenko is a firm believer in constant improvement, both for herself and for the community. "Bringing change and betterment to individuals has always been a staple of my 'make-up' as a nurse," she explains. "It is a constant goal of mine to be able to recognize how the systems around me can be fine-tuned in order to provide the best service for our clients in the community."

"Health care is an industry that is based upon improving things, whether those things involve updating technology or connecting to new developments in social programs," she continues. "Providing an improved quality of life to individuals in need has always been a goal of mine in this profession, and without such an outlook I genuinely doubt that change can be

properly effected."

Shevchenko said a drive to help others is what drew her into the nursing profession. "The ability to help a person in need greatly drove me toward becoming a nurse; knowing that I could contribute to the recovery and promote a 'well-being' lifestyle in the community," she related, noting that she has had many opportunities to make a difference in her five years with NYC Health + Hospitals/ Community Care. "Having worked in Community Care has helped me become more in touch with everyday individuals from all walks of life."

This year's ongoing COVID-19 crisis also has provided Shevchenko the chance to have an impact on the community. "I'm very proud to be a part of Community Care team by participating – in particular - in the isolation hotel program," she says, adding that this "was a great, and proud, experience for me."

Just being able to assist the front liners was very fulfilling during these uncertain times." Shevchenko notes that she considers "accountability" to be one of the core tenets of nursing. "If I cannot be accountable to myself first and foremost, then how could I ever hope to adequately serve my patients and co-workers in a field that demands the utmost diligence?" she comments.

"Accountability has always been a core value that I have treasured - not only as a nurse, but as an individual. Being accountable to oneself has always allowed me to put my best foot forward and put forth my best effort in any situation."