

Nurse Excellence

RN Mei Ling

April 2022



Meet Mei Ling.

Hi Mei, can you tell us when you got the feeling for nursing?

I was young when my father got his fateful diagnosis; a malignant form of cancer was threatening his strong body. Life soon forced us to spend a bulk of time in the hospital near his bedside. Seeing the caring nurses hustling around him was an eye-opening experience. Their devoted involvement in my father's end-of-life care and the understanding they exhibit towards my family has left fingerprints on my heart forever. In 2016 my dad passed away. It was then that I made my decision to become a geriatric nurse.

Are any other members of your family in the medical field?

No. Though I was the first in my family to go for a career in the medical field, they loved the idea. They always predicted I will end up on a job helping people. My younger sister is currently in college and aiming to be a dietitian. I encouraged her that although it is not in the medical line, it is still a way of bringing smiles to people's faces.

How do you enjoy working with the geriatric population?

Surprisingly, I ended up as a pediatric nurse. When I graduated from Lehman College, I joined the fabulous preceptor program with White Glove, something I would recommend for every new-grad nurse. I was grateful to be granted the opportunity to gain my expertise hands-on. My first assignment was working with a three-year-old boy, where my heart was captured and my love for children came afloat. I have been working in that home since. After some time, I started working with my patient in the school setting for the hours he attends. Besides for my patient, there are five other children in classroom. They are very comfortable with me and address me though I would be another teacher. For the holiday season, the teacher of the class got me a pouch saying '#1 teacher'. It really got me smiling!

What do you find as the most interesting factor working as a Private Duty Nurse?

I thrive on the connection with the patients and their families. Being with my patient for more than a year, the family jokes that I am the 3rd parent in the household!

It is also very intriguing to spend time in different homes with people of different cultures and backgrounds. I have learnt a lot from the people I have worked with and admire them immensely. I feel like now, two years from when I started, I am so much more culturally competent. I would love to see more kinds of people, help them, and learn more about their lifestyles.

Have you faced any disappointments throughout your nursing career?

This is a hard one! I just love it all. The only thing I could think of happened before my career was on wheels. Lehman College usually hosts a beautiful graduation ceremony, where all the students are dressed in white, and the family takes part. It is the highlighted moment that students look forward to. Unfortunately, my graduation was at the height of the pandemic, so we were limited to a small, virtual ceremony. It was pretty disappointing.

Any message you would like to impart to White Glove nurses all over?

It is always good to set high goals to reach greater heights. But sometimes we get so tied up with a specific path we want to ride on that we cannot enjoy the actual ride. I find that an attitude of being happy and going along with where the wind takes you is a helpful tool in your career and in life in general.

[Click Here For More](#)