



firefly caregiver

SPOTLIGHT

Meet Michelle Charles

Tell us about you.

I have three boys ages 17, 13 and 10, and they keep me busy, especially with virtual learning. Also, I've been married for two years to my husband, Matt.

You've been with Firefly for seven years.

Tell us about your career:

I was at Ivy Tech pursuing a nursing degree when I saw an ad for a Firefly caregiver. I worked as a caregiver while I was in school. After graduation, I worked somewhere else for a short time before returning to Firefly as an intake specialist until a nursing position opened up. I've been a nurse for three years, and I pick up occasional caregiving shifts, especially when they are also my nursing clients.

Why do you work both nursing and caregiving shifts?

It started with one of my nursing patients. He had family living with him, but his home situation changed recently and now he is alone. On my nursing visit, I noticed he could use help around the house. We'd developed a good relationship, and I wanted to help. Now, I have a nursing shift with him once a week and caregiving shifts.

What is different about being a Firefly nurse?

It's definitely the time you spend with a client. In a facility, you have ten to twenty minutes with a client and you don't get to know them. As a Firefly nurse, I spend time with the client and build a relationship with them and their family. They become my family.



What is something out of the ordinary that you've done with a client?

One client pulled out bagpipes and showed me how to play them. He was tickled that someone had an interest in bagpipes. It was fun. I even have pictures!

What's your favorite activity to do with clients?

I enjoy working with dementia clients, especially doing puzzles and working to engage them in conversation. We have many VA clients and they all have war stories. It's interesting to hear the history of what they are willing to share.

What Firefly says about Michelle —

Our Caregiver of the Month for October 2020 is Michelle Charles. We are thankful for all of our caregivers, but Michelle holds a special place at Firefly—she is our longest standing employee. Michelle began as a Firefly caregiver in 2013. Since then, she's also been an intake specialist, and after completing her LPN, as a nurse for Firefly Home Health. Now, she works for both Firefly Home Health as an LPN and Firefly Home Care as a caregiver.

"Michelle is honest, hardworking, dependable, and loyal," said Amy Manifold. "She is compassionate and caring with her patients and clients. It's not easy to rattle her cage. She has a lot of grit. We are lucky to have her on our team."

Thank you, Michelle, for all you've done for Firefly and for the care and compassion that you show your patients and clients every day.

