



Harmon Home Health's professional and compassionate staff includes, left to right: Jo-Ann Gaughan, Michelle Williams, Sheila Barter, Kim Harmon, Patti Furmanick, Kerry Brennan, Lisa Woods and Angela Pezzano.

Private home care with a 'Celebrate Life' twist

Bring your health — home. For Kim Harmon and her award-winning Harmon Home Health staff, this is far more than a catchy marketing slogan. It's a mission.

"We believe the best place — the most comforting place — to provide these services is in the sanctuary of your own home," says Harmon. "Whether it's for two or 24 hours a day, the customized care plans we provide help each of our clients to feel special in their own home."

Always stressing compassion, personalized attention and respect, Harmon Home Health offers a wide range of services that even include traveling hairdressers. "There's a lot to consider when you look at home health care," explains Harmon. "That's why our care providers do everything from traditional personal care services to post-partum respite for new mothers or just 'being there' as a companion."

Keeping with its emphasis on quality, services are available to Worcester and the surrounding community 24 hours a day, and nurses are always on-call to troubleshoot, prepare care plans or just talk about concerns.

Drawing from more than a decade of experience as a community health nurse, Harmon founded the private home health agency in July 2006, and today manages its licensed, bonded and insured staff.

She founded the company after identifying a service gap in the market for private home care. For clients and referral sources, it was hard to find consistency and quality of care; client's family members, meanwhile, verbalized the desire to be treated with compassion. Harmon was prompted to build a unique agency where trust was the draw and where clients were treated with the utmost respect and dignity.

The community has responded overwhelmingly to that philosophy: In just a short period of time, its professional expertise and infectious warmth have set the standard for private home health care in central Massachusetts.

Much of that is due to Harmon's outlook: The way she celebrates life is contagious. From the high morale of her

staff to her relentless focus on trust, integrity and compassion, she exudes professional expertise and positive energy.

Day-to-day, she has a few simple mantras that guide her work; she rarely misses an opportunity to share these guiding principles with her close-knit staff: "We don't do things for our clients; we do things with our clients. We simply treat others as we'd want our families to be treated."

Harmon's staff, in turn, has been inspired by her professional expertise and personal integrity.

"All my training only prepared me for the medical and physical challenges," says Lydia Oquendo, a Certified Home Health Aide with Harmon Home Health. "Kim's knowledge and nurturing, hands-on presence help me handle the mental and psychological demands of working with clients. She makes it a priority to help me help my clients maintain their dignity while still living safely and securely."

All told, providing professional, compassionate, convenient and comforting care is truly about "Celebrating Life" and building personal connections.

Harmon's newest venture — *Team Celebrate Life*[™] — builds on Harmon's joie de vivre. A holistic program, "*Team Celebrate Life*[™]" will enhance clients' physical, emotional and spiritual well-being by incorporating nontraditional approaches, such as massage, Reiki therapy (Harmon is a level II Reiki practitioner), spiritual counseling and an overall focus on expressing joy for life.

"Our staff shares our philosophy of celebrating life," Harmon explains. "We hire warm, caring and compassionate people. After all, these attributes guide us through the day."

Harmon Home Health's simple approach not only promotes emotional (and according to some studies, physical) health, it also makes sense economically: The cost of providing hospital care for an older American can be three to five times greater than the cost of providing in-home care.

Harmon Home Health's services are also vital. According to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, the number of Americans 65 and older will more than double to

71 million (roughly 20 percent of the population) by 2030.

As the need for its services increases, Harmon will continue to stand out due to its unique philosophy — and clients will continue to be grateful. Receiving heartfelt gratitude, Harmon says, is the most rewarding aspect of her job.

If Harmon Home Health's superlative reputation is any indication, she and her staff are clearly destined for many more such thanks in the years to come. ■

Harmon
Home Health
bring your health...home

Address: 51 Union Street, Suite 202,
Worcester, MA 01608

Phone: 508-791-5600

Fax: 508-791-5300

Website: www.harmonhomecare.com

Number of employees: 82

Top Executive: Kimberly Harmon RN, BSN
Founder & CEO

Product or Service: Private Home Health
Care & Well-Being Programs

Year founded: 2006