


NURSES: INSPIRE, INNOVATE, INFLUENCE
FLORENCE TOUSSAINT BELLEGARDE, RN

4 million reasons to celebrate

National Nurses Week is May 6-12

Empathy and courage are important qualities for every nurse. Hospice nursing requires substantially more of these qualities. Florence Tousasaint-Bellegarde, a VITAS Healthcare hospice case manager for seven years, epitomizes empathy and courage.

Florence advocates for her patients in every aspect of their care. She has a responsibility to ensure the comfort and well-being of her patients as well as provide empathy and support to the loved ones that surround her patients. The connection that Florence has with her patients and families is second to none. In fact, many patients and families adamantly

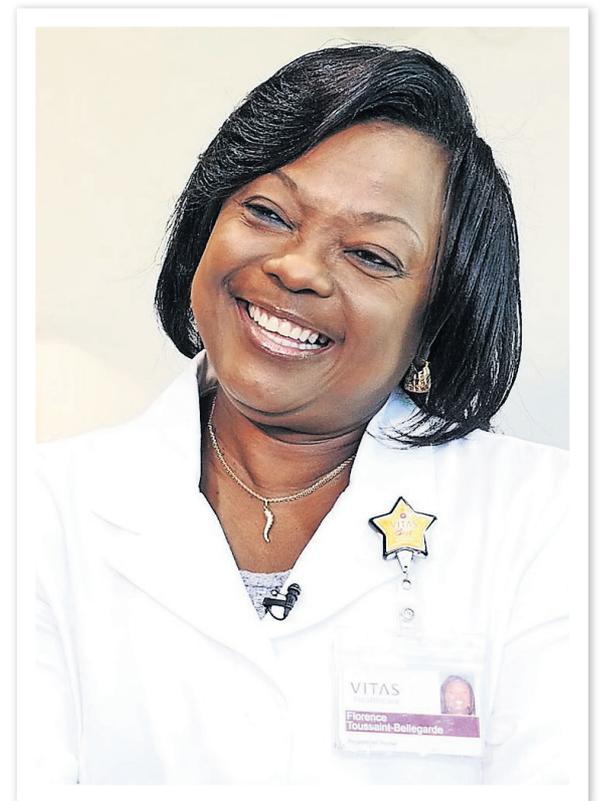
request ONLY Florence's care for their loved ones. Many of the families she cares for "return the favor" by supporting Florence with well wishes and concern when she is out of work from an illness.

In many nursing settings, there is a set objective to achieve. In the hospice setting, each end-of-life experience is unique. Florence exhibits an innate

ability to accurately assess the needs of her patients and to deliver the most appropriate care during an extremely vulnerable time of an individual's life.

Florence is a model nurse in many other ways. When she is not caring for her hospice patients, she volunteers her time on missionary trips to Haiti and delivers care in the community, always striving to improve the health and well-being of all lives that she touches.

Florence is an asset to VITAS Healthcare, her patients and families, and the community at large!



In the hospice setting, each end-of-life experience is unique. **Florence exhibits an innate ability to accurately assess the needs of her patients** and to deliver the most appropriate care during an extremely vulnerable time of an individual's life.

The Palm Beach Post has teamed with Palm Health Foundation, Tenet Health and VITAS Healthcare to salute nurses. Go to PalmHealthFoundation.org to read more.

