



My name is Lydia Wright and I live at St. Augustine Manor. I worked in nursing homes as a State Tested Nursing Assistant for over twenty years but unfortunately I became ill. As the years progressed, I was in the hospital more than I was at home. I was unable to go home after a hospital visit in August 2009. When I first got sick and my doctor said he could not release me back to living independently, I thought my life was over. I thought my purpose in life which was to help care for other people was over. My only daughter lives 800 miles away and I didn't know what I was going to do. After speaking with my employer and discussing my options, we decided on a plan for me to enter the assisted living facility where I could maintain my independence and still have the assistance I needed and have my health monitored.

I was then able to move into an apartment on my own. I thought this was a great idea until my mental health began to fail. My daughter would call each day and share stories but I had no one to share the stories with or to be happy with me. My friends came over less frequently and calls farther apart. I became more isolated, depressed and afraid and ended up back in the hospital. I was not able to return home after the hospitalization and I went to St. Augustine Manor for physical therapy and respiratory care. (I worked at St. Augustine for eight years)

My life has changed in many ways. I am healthier and not in the hospital requiring acute care. I now feel as if I am wanted and I belong here. St. Augustine Manor did not just give a room to live in. They made a home for me and made space in their hearts for me. I now have a purpose again. I am able to socialize with other people, participate in activities and help other people that live with me. I really enjoy the opportunity to read to the preschoolers in St. Augustine's Child Enrichment Center. All this keeps my mind off how ill I am or could be at any time.

The outpouring of compassion by the staff, the medical care I need and receive and the sense of purpose makes me feel blessed to live at St. Augustine Health Campus.