



The PULSE

IN MEMORIAM

Corlee Spelgatti: 1937-2022

Corlee Spelgatti, an employee of CHCC for more than 35 years, passed away recently. She was 85.

To hear her co-workers tell it, Corlee was a dependable, compassionate, kind-hearted and tenacious team member who consistently put others' needs above her own.

"I thank God for her life, which was dedicated to helping others," said Lois H., a longtime co-worker of Corlee's in the dietary department. "She truly was an inspiration to all of us."

Corlee began her CHCC career in 1985, mending clothing and other items in the sewing department. She would later move to laundry and house-keeping before landing a long-term role in dietary.

She loved to work weekends with the high school and college students, who took to calling her "grandma," said Carol DuBois, the dietary manager. Corlee possessed extensive knowl-



Corlee Spelgatti

edge about her craft, DuBois said, and taught many CHCC employees over the years.

"Corlee was my mentor for all the years working at CHCC in the same department," Lois remembered. "She taught me the ins and outs of the hostess position and the dietary rules in

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RESIDENT SPOTLIGHT

Getting to know Carmen L.



Carmen L.

Have you lived in other places besides Lynden?

I was born in Lynden and grew up here. I even graduated from Lynden Christian High School. After that, I decided to go to college in Sioux City, Iowa, where I studied to become a teacher. I completed my college education and decided to move to California, in the Ontario and Ventura areas. I eventually made my way back to Lynden with my daughter.

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Like or share CHCC's Facebook posts with your friends and family to help others learn about job openings, volunteer opportunities, donation requests and more.

facebook.com/christianhealthcare

KUDOS

Matt, Steve are Shining Stars!

Matt C. is the nursing Shining Star for January. Not only is Matt an NAC here at CHCC, but he is also a mentor. In a nomination letter, a co-worker wrote: "Matt is enthusiastic about his work as a NAC. He has a positive attitude the moment he starts his shift. No matter where he is assigned to work, he strives to be a team player."



Matt C.

Our non-nursing Shining Star is Steven Lewis, our environmental services director. He has worked at CHCC for six years, leading the maintenance, house-keeping and laundry departments. Steve works hard all day, every day. He was especially busy during December, after Robert and Jerry retired and before he was joined by Mark and Gordon. Steve was a one-man show during the snowstorm and extra-cold weather! He was here every day. Many of you stepped up to help, but Steve had the burden of the building on his shoulders more heavily than usual. We appreciate Steve's work ethic, intelligence and humor.



Steven L.

Congratulations and a huge thank you to Matt C. and Steven Lewis!

#CHCCTEAMWORK

We love our NACs!



Angelica, Jubilee and Logan pose for a photo after one of the January/February NAC classes here at CHCC. NACs are an important part of the work we do here at our health care center.

Earn cash for referrals

Remember that you can earn a bonus of up to \$1,000 for every licensed nurse who signs on to work 24 or more hours per week here because of you.

Call or text RN or LPN nurses you know (perhaps former coworkers) and let them know that we have open positions, which are listed at chcclynden.org/careers/.

Questions about CHCC's referral program? Chat with Kari or Ronda in human resources!

CARMEN L.

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What industry did you retire from?

I started out as a preschool teacher, but I realized that was not the job for me. I made a decision to become an insurance billing clerk in a hospital in California.

What was your favorite thing about the work you did?

I guess I would say the reward of money coming in and being told that the money came in and the bills were paid.

If you could have any type of food today, what would it be?

Oh, pizza! If someone were to come bring me a pizza right now, I would give them a kiss, it just sounds so good. I would want Canadian bacon and pineapple pizza!

Or this dip for chips I used to make. You take Velveeta and Hormel chili with no beans and mix them together and it is delicious. You have to make sure to have it warm though, because it congeals together if it sits and gets cold.

What is one thing that you have been most proud of in your life?

I am most proud of my daughter, Kristin. She is a supervisor of the English department at Northwest Lineman College in Boise, Idaho. She and her husband, Jason, have given me five beautiful grandchildren. I have all of their photos in my room that I look at every day.

What is one thing you did or experienced that was scary?

One night when I was living in California, a group of friends and I went up a mountain to hang out for a little while. Well, on the drive back down, we decided to turn the headlights off! There were so many hairpin turns we had to take in

complete darkness. I would never do that again.

What was your favorite decade to live in, and why?

I think the 1970s. Back then, I was married and had just had Kristin. Rick and I had a home, and I had a good job. The best part was right after I had Kristin and I was a stay-at-home mom for five months.

What is one life lesson that you learned from your parents?

Work hard, be honest, and be the kind of person where in the evening, when you look back at the day, you know you did a good job — even if nobody saw.

What is one piece of advice that you would give a 16-year-old person today?

Work hard at whatever you're doing and keep your eye on the prize; you won't regret it!

What is one thing most people don't know about you but you wish they did?

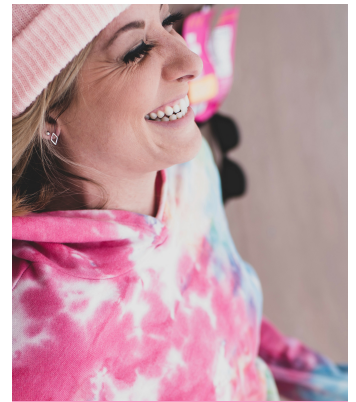
I have a great sense of humor! I also have a life motto: Be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to anger. James 1:19.

You've lived through other historical events — wars and recessions and such. What do you think of the pandemic that we're living through now?

I am sick and tired of it! I want it to just go away, but I don't think that is going to happen any time soon. When it first started, I thought maybe it would last until June of that year, but now here we are two years later, and it is still here.

What is one thing that you like about living at CHCC?

I enjoy all of my interactions between residents and workers. It is fascinating and I enjoy it quite a lot.



Tie Dye Day

On Friday, Feb. 25, wear some favorite tie dye clothing to work, just for fun.

Flu Fighters

Did you know that CHCC is an official Flu Fighter Facility? We have been recognized by the Washington State Department of Health with a special award given only to facilities with flu vaccination rates of at least 75% among employees.

The flu disproportionately affects older adults in long-term care facilities, and the award shows those we care for, and their families and friends, that we are working hard to protect our community from the flu. Thank you to each of you!

CORLEE

Continued from Page 1

the dietary department with dignity and grace. She spent quality one-on-one time with team members, especially if there was an issue to work out.”

Corlee was a great role model and tons of fun to work with, Lois said.

“I loved how we filled our conversations with quips from the genre of music from our generation,” she said. “And most of all, I loved her tenacity to ‘hang in there’ no matter what was thrown in our path.”

For the past few years, Corlee was on afternoon hydration duty, a role she relished because it enabled her to visit with those who lived at CHCC.

“They all loved Corlee and looked forward to her visits each day,” DuBois said.

Corlee was loved by residents and team members both. During her many years at CHCC, Corlee’s name would come up regularly in Shining Star nominations from

her peers.

“Corlee has the most amazing work ethic ever,” said Leah M. in one such recent nomination. “She is fiercely independent and incredibly dedicated to CHCC, and especially to the residents here. She is always positive, has a great outlook, is kind and compassionate, and is also a wonderful mother, grandmother, friend and co-worker.”

More of Corlee’s teammates shared their thoughts in recent Shining Star nominations:

- “Corlee is a wonderful co-worker! Very dependable! She is great with the residents! She’s been here 35 years and I think she deserves it!”

- “She is a hard worker, compassionate, dedicated and very kind-hearted.”

- “She is always gracious and kind, and she always puts the resident needs first. She has provided so many wonderful years to CHCC!”

Memorial service

A funeral for Corlee Spelgatti will be held at 1 p.m. Friday, Feb. 25, at Northlake Community Church, 1471 McLeod Bellingham.

- “She systematically runs the dining room thoroughly and always has positive interactions with the residents. She also retains the residents’ likes and dislikes as far as treats when passing the snack cart on the hall, ensuring she has what they like. Corlee is very appreciated by staff and residents.”

Corlee’s husband, John, preceded her in death in 2016. The couple were married for 55 years.

We will miss Corlee’s energy and joy around the building, and we sure are thankful to have been able to work with her for so many years.

#CHCCTEAMWORK



Ready for spring? Get a jump on the sunny, promising days of spring by sharing a kind word with a teammate today.

#CHCCTEAMWORK



Thank you, CHCC team, for always being there for those who need help! #CHCCTeamwork