My experience with my grandmother is one that I will always cherish.  It has taught me the true meaning of caring for others. She had cancer and suffered in pain for so many arduous months.  Growing up in a third world country has its disadvantages.  One, if you're not well-off or don't have family abroad assisting you financially, illness can be devastating. I was not able to care for my grandma because I was a senior in high school and had many high stakes exams upon which my graduation depended.  So when she became more ill and passed away, I was not there.  But I made a promise to care for my mom and any other elderly person or family member that I encountered in the future.  When I reflect back on my childhood days, I remember many seasons spent with my grandmother. Although I grew up with my parents, I would spend all my summers with grandmother.  She was caring and compassionate and went above and beyond for her grandchildren.. In the middle of the night she would get up and kill any mosquitoes buzzing over us because she didn't want us to be bitten.  She and my grandfather didn't have a lot of money, but every summer she took a child from each of her children to spend the summer with her.  Whenever we got sick she stayed up all night with us. My reason for becoming a nurse is because of my grandmother. The elderly are a vulnerable population, and we have to be caring and compassionate when working with them, particularly when they are ill because then they are even more frail than they are usually. Also, the mere fact that they have reached this advanced stage in their lives should earn them special veneration and consideration.  I am currently working in LTC in a rehab facility, and I enjoy the wisdom my patients have to share. My job as a nurse brings a smile to my patients’ faces and brings joy to my heart. My values are to do the right thing for them all the time. Treat people with compassion, dignity and respect no matter whom you encounter. Try every day to be a better person.

On graduation day, nurses around the world recite the Florence Nightingale pledge .  It's begins, “I solemnly pledge myself before God and in the presence of this assembly, to pass my life in purity and to practice my profession faithfully.”  The sentiments expressed in this pledge reflect my values because they communicate the commitment I feel towards the nursing profession in general and towards my patients in particular.  Unfortunately, the profession is changing, and many people are entering the field for monetary gains. Nurses are supposed to be leaders, problem solvers, teachers, mentors and many other titles. Working in an LTC taught me many life lessons. I care for doctors, lawyers, teachers, and they all teach me something different. Some of my patients have Alzheimer's and can't remember their own names let alone their children’s. This experience has made me a better-rounded nurse who will help me better serve my patients and their families. I learned that being healthy is more important than knowledge. Because you can have all the knowledge in the world, but if you are not healthy, to whom can you impart that knowledge? Nursing can be challenging - especially when it involves family members, but they are our patients too.  When nurses are kind to their patients and go above and beyond the scope of practice, this can make the healthcare field an awesome place. It is important for us as nurses to be properly educated and to educate our patients. Overall, my experience as a nurse is enriching and will always be a part of my life.