

MaineJobs SPOTLIGHT:

Advantage Home Care

Dawn Panagrosso, Care Specialist

How did you get started?

I was motivated to help people, and Advantage Home Care gave me the opportunity to pursue my calling.

What training did you have?
In Connecticut, I worked for another

company that provided me with training classes.

In the two years I have been working for Advantage Home Care, they have offered me continuing training, including an in-depth Alzheimer's and dementia course.

What is a typical day like?

It varies depending on the client's needs. Some clients just want company – a companion, a friend. I take my senior clients to and from appointments, and go shopping with them, or for them. I plan their meals and cook for them, and I do light housework for them, including laundry. I also help with personal care for those who need extra assistance.

What skills are essential for you?

Being a compassionate person, being attentive and maintaing eye contact,

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> patience, flexibility, offering a listening ear, hugs ... lots of hugs!

What's your favorite part of the job?

The people I meet, and their families. They are just wonderful people! It touches me when I can put a smile on someone's face when I care for them.

What's the greatest challenge? Getting to know my clients' likes and dislikes. What keeps them feeling comfortable and secure? What can I do to meet their needs so that I can provide the best service? I need to listen, and learn.

Who succeeds in the job?

To be successful in this line of work, you must be a dedicated

and compassionate caregiver. You really have to care about people, and be all you can be.

What advice would you offer to someone interested in this field?

If caring for seniors interests you, Advantage Home Care is the perfect company to work for. Everyone - from the president of the company, to the office management, and the caregivers on staff - truly cares about the peope we serve. They are why we are here. Being a Care Specialist for seniors is a job that requires dedication, loyalty, and trust.



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