



## **Crandall dementia unit director receives prestigious certification**

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Tara Garmier, LPN, and director of Memory Lane at Crandall Medical Center, has earned a certification from the National Council for Certified Dementia Practitioners. The certification, as a Certified Dementia Support Group Facilitator, makes Garmier the only person in the state of Ohio and one of only three people in the United States to hold this certification.

Garmier has also previously earned the following certifications: Certified Dementia Practitioner; Certified Alzheimer's Disease and Dementia Care Trainer, and Certified Dementia Care Manager. Garmier has been with Crandall Medical Center since 2015 when she started out as a part-time LPN working in the Memory Lane unit. After only a year of working part time, Garmier was promoted to the Director of Memory Lane.

The NCCDP is an accredited and approved provider of continuing education by accrediting agencies. As a CDSGF, Garmier is permitted to facilitate support groups for those who are affected by dementia. Garmier holds a support group once a month for families of residents in Memory Lane.

"It is important that we support the families with loved ones who are dealing with dementia," said Garmier. "I absolutely love what I do; it doesn't feel like a job to me. I have the passion and empathy to care for people with cognitive impairments and being there for their families is an essential part of their care."

In March, Copeland Oaks will be opening a new Assisted Living Memory Unit of which Garmier has played a significant role in launching. She plans to implement a support group for those families as well.

Garmier explained, "This new AL Memory Unit is a huge need today. It allows us to add another step in our continuum of care."

All of the nurses in the Assisted Living Memory Care will be CDP certified, meaning they have received extra training and have met NCCDP requirements in the area of dementia care.

“If I had a loved one who had dementia/Alzheimer’s it would be a comfort to me knowing that I was placing them somewhere that the staff is all CDP certified and has the training to care for these people,” added Garmier.

The new Assisted Living Memory Care is for those with early stages of dementia who have complex care needs due to cognitive impairment. The advantage of continuum of care is that if a resident in Assisted Living Memory Care begins to decline they would transition from there to Memory Lane in Crandall. The families will already have established a relationship with Garmier to make the transition as easy as possible.

Garmier recognizes that she wouldn’t be able to do her job if it wasn’t for everyone working for Crandall Medical Center.

“I love the fact that we all work as a team, there is always someone to go to if you have questions or need to bounce ideas. We’re constantly lifting each other up. It takes a village to care for people with dementia. It’s all of us put together that makes Crandall what it is. I’ve never worked at a place like Crandall that the staff genuinely cares about the residents, she emphasized.

When Garmier isn’t working at Crandall she is using her other three-letter certification, MOM. Garmier is a mother to a 16-year-old and 5-year-old. She enjoys spending any free time she has with her family as well as volunteering and fundraising for the Alzheimer’s Association.

Crandall Medical Center is a 190-bed rehabilitation and skilled nursing facility on the campus of Copeland Oaks Retirement Community. Crandall provides all-private rooms for those who need both long-term or short-term nursing care. While at Crandall, residents receive the highest level of skilled nursing care and therapy services including memory care, rehabilitation and extended care.



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