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Niagara Hospice employees advance

Mar 18, 2019



Keri Collins



Keri Collins, R.N., a nurse at Niagara Hospice, has earned two nationally recognized dementia care certifications, Certified Dementia Practitioner (CDP) and Certified Alzheimer's Disease and Dementia Care Trainer (CADDCT) from the National Council of Certified Dementia Practitioners.

The CDP certification demonstrates that Collins has received comprehensive knowledge in dementia care and commits to ongoing education about all new developments that pertain to dementia. The CADDCT signifies that she is qualified to train other clinical staff to attain their CDP designation to improve their dementia care and support service abilities.

Collins, a nurse at Niagara Hospice since 2009, is the only hospice nurse in Western New York with the certifications and Niagara Hospice is the only hospice organization west of Syracuse to attain both national accreditations.

“Earning these certifications was a tremendous career opportunity to expand my leadership capabilities as we continue to innovate the dementia care and support services for Niagara Hospice patients and families,” Collins said. “I learned many non-medical care options and behavioral intervention techniques that will elevate our ability to respond to the many different symptoms and challenges that dementia patients face in their daily lives. Our goal is to admit these patients sooner to improve their quality of life.”

Collins, a Newfane resident, earned an Associate in Applied Science degree in nursing from Niagara County Community College.

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Also announced by Niagara Hospice: Elizabeth Deeks of Lockport is the agency's newly hired special events specialist.

Deeks will lead the planning and marketing for two of the organization's signature summer events, the Jack Beatty Memorial Cruise & Clambake at Youngstown Yacht Club in July, and the Mighty Niagara Half-Marathon and Hospice Dash 5K in September. Deeks also will provide support for all other Niagara Hospice community fundraising efforts.

Deeks has a background in marketing, sales and special events from her previous work at a digital marketing agency and a senior living organization. A city resident, she has a Bachelor of Science degree from SUNY Fredonia.

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