

 Melva Noakes, former owner of America's Kids Day Care which was inside Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building that was bombed in 1995. She is currently the Executive Director of Brookhaven Mansions, an independent senior living community in Norman Oklahoma.

Melva's love for seniors developed in her childhood, through a special relationship with a woman who taught her Sunday School class beginning when Melva was ten. When this woman suffered a stroke and moved to a nursing home Melva became a frequent visitor to her, and when she reached the age of sixteen she became employed at this nursing home. She provided direct care to the residents there for the next seven years while she finished high school and college. After finishing college her first job was at Midwest City Hospital, providing direct care on the geriatric ward.

In 1970, with her desire to serve people firmly in place, Melva began working with the State of Oklahoma in the Developmental Disability Division, while simultaneously being a foster parent and owning and managing daycares. Melva was director of the daycare at the Murrah Building in Oklahoma City when the 1995 bombing occurred. After that experience she chose to go back to her first love of working with seniors and for the past eighteen years has worked with Assisted and Independent Living Communities.

In April of 2008 Melva chose to complete extensive training in Florida in caring for people with dementia, and there she received national certificates in *Alzheimer's and Dementia Care*, *Dementia Practitioner*, *Dementia Instructor*, and *Dementia Care Manager from National Council of Certified Dementia Practitioners*. Melva was the first resident of Oklahoma that was nationally certified in these areas. Melva is now seeking certification in *First Responder Dementia Trainer* which will allow her to work with all local police departments to aid citizens with dementia when they accidentally wander from their place of residence. Melva also holds Administrator's Certification in both Assisted Living and Home Health.

Melva's favorite part of her job is impacting the quality of life of the residents in her community. She enjoys training staff and motivating them to seek out unique ways to touch residents and bring them happiness throughout their disease process. She believes in the importance of



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honoring this generation of American citizens; taking time to hear their stories and honoring them for all that they have given to our communities and our country. She is the mother of a daughter and a son . Melva is a grandmother of five and has been happily married for forty three years to a wonderful man.

Melva is the Children Church Director of New Life Methodist church where she continues her 30 years of teaching children of God's Love and understanding.

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