

Veronica Azi

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Personal Profile

I have cared about and worked with people all of my adult life. As a degreed social worker I have used my skills in the business, public and nonprofit sectors. I have worked with people of all ages, social, educational, religious, economic, sexual, ethnic and cultural groups. I am passionate about the quality and dignity of life especially of those who are disabled and or elderly. I cut short my career in Jacksonville, Florida to return to Milwaukee and care for my mother who had a stroke that paralyzed her legs. I provided for all of her daily needs while working full time. After her passing I chose to stay connected to older adults when offered an opportunity to work as the Supervisor of the Foster Grandparent Program at Interfaith Older Adult Programs in Milwaukee. I carried out the Mission of the Foster Grandparent program which is to improve the overall quality of life for the older adult volunteer and to provide enrichment opportunities for students of special needs. Students were within Milwaukee Public Schools. During this time my son who had been diagnosed as a paranoid schizophrenic came home. I coordinated his care and assisted in the productivity of his daily life seeking resources through Milwaukee County. During this time I also became acquainted with new information for family caregivers through Interfaith's Family Caregiver Support Network (FCSN is under contract with MCDA.) which enhanced my personal skills as I assisted my son.

After my tenure with Interfaith's Foster Grandparent Program I became a caregiver for my oldest sister who had suffered a stroke and left her paralyzed like our mother. I utilized resources again through FCSN and the Aging Resource Center at MCDA. All of these experiences have shown me how vulnerable older adults, disabled and the mentally ill can become. People at my church, Evergreen Baptist Church, seek me out for resources in the community pertaining to aging, disabilities, mental illness, AODA, abuse, domestic violence, food and much more. I am passionate about serving and advocating for the rights of older adults and the disadvantaged.

Skills Profile

- Plan and carry out community outreach including a newsletter
- Build community awareness
- Provide accurate information, support, advocacy, follow-up for those needing services
- Oversee staff and volunteers as well as program budget and contract
- Maintain program records and prepare reports as required
- Give presentations, public speaking, provide workshops
- Reliable, organized, compassionate, ethical, team member, a leader
- Works well in a business setting with the public and customer especially the older consumer