



Angel of the Month: Colbert Pierre

Visiting Angels Newton/Canton is thrilled to award Colbert Pierre Angel of the Month for June 2021. Colbert began working with us in May 2015, recently marking his 6th anniversary as a team member. Colbert is treasured by his clients as well as every **Visiting Angels** staff member who works with him. He is valued for his character, knowledge, warmth, and dedication.

Colbert has assisted over 20 clients since coming on board with us. He has been caring for his current client since he began services in March 2019. In addition, Colbert assisted one client from the beginning of care until he passed away three years later. Another of our clients only wanted Colbert or one other special caregiver to assist her husband and her. As the parents of two daughters, she often referred to Colbert as “the son they never had.”

Working with our Angel

“Colbert has been a solid and reliable cornerstone of his current client since I have been managing this case,” RN Case Manager Katherine Jennings said. “Colbert has shown patience, kindness, and compassion throughout the years, despite this being a very complicated case. In addition, Colbert consistently gives advance notice if he has plans to travel or take a day off, which allows me to plan ahead for coverage of our client. Finally, I admire Colbert’s ability as a seasoned caregiver to be present, handling his responsibilities while not allowing our client’s behavior to affect his professionalism.

“Colbert has also helped me out on another case as of late as well. He quickly accepted fill-in shifts when other caregivers were not available. I received a call from a family member after Colbert’s shift. They could not say enough positive things about Colbert and the exceptional and gentlemanly behavior with which he performed his duties. This client was delighted to have him and would more than welcome him back.

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“Over my years of experience as a nurse working with caregivers, there have been few people who have impressed me the way Colbert does,” Katherine continued. “He is a true gem. I have also had the pleasure of working with Elie Petion, who Colbert referred to us. His work is of the same quality and caliber as Colbert’s, and we appreciate Colbert referring such a wonderful caregiver to us.”

Experience and Aspirations

Before leaving Haiti, Colbert had completed two years of medical school and had begun his residency. His goal was to become a surgeon. He married the love of his life, and when he learned they were expecting a child, Colbert made arrangements to come to the United States to build a more financially stable life for his family. He used his medical education and desire to take care of others and became a Certified Nurse Assistant in 2014, soon after settling in Massachusetts. He gained extensive experience caring for hospice patients while working in nursing homes. Then his good friend Farah Joseph (another wonderful member of our care team) recommended he apply to **Visiting Angels** Newton/Canton.

“I love this agency!” Colbert said. “I tell everyone I know that this is the best home care company – I have had such positive experiences with everyone. Katherine is the best case manager ever, and I have always felt so supported and appreciated by all case managers and office staff.”

Colbert has completed his prerequisite classes and will begin night courses in the fall to obtain a bachelor’s degree in nursing. Colbert explained, “There has always been something inside me that draws me to care for others - it is in my nature. I am thrilled to have the opportunity to expand my knowledge and achieve my goals by advancing my education.”

Sage Advice for Others

Colbert offers words of wisdom from his years of experience assisting people with various illnesses and needs. The biggest takeaway from his time as a professional caregiver is understanding the necessity to have patience and compassion and be prepared. He emphasizes the importance of seeing each client as an individual. He advises that it is essential to learn as much about your clients as possible and what they require to be comfortable.

“Remember that our clients are generally fragile,” Colbert advises. “There is a reason why they need our help,” He underscored that caregivers will have a positive outcome when they put their best foot forward on each shift. “Always be yourself and be humble,” Colbert continued. “Let go of agitation if you are in a difficult situation and call your case manager if you need support – they are there for you.”

On a Personal Note

Colbert is proud to have become a U.S. citizen three years ago. Although his wife and young daughter still reside in Haiti with family, he and his wife are working hard to obtain a residency visa

for both to come to Massachusetts to be with him. Colbert is eager to visit his family once travel restrictions have relaxed. For now, he relies on FaceTime and lots of phone calls to stay connected. When he is not working, Colbert is a homebody. He enjoys watching movies and reading books and will occasionally venture out to the nearest ice cream shop. Colbert has been a Youth Leader at the First Christian Church Source of Grace for several years, which brings him great fulfillment. Even when Colbert is not working as a professional caregiver, he is still helping others.

Our Gratitude

Visiting Angels Newton/Canton is greatly honored to award you, Colbert, Angel of the Month for June 2021. Thank you for accepting any challenges we send your way. We value your professionalism, optimism, and your kindhearted nature. We are deeply grateful for the care and extraordinary support you consistently provide to our clients.