



Angel of the Month: Sam Ssebbowa

Visiting Angels Newton/Canton is honored to award Sam Ssebbowa Angel of the Month for October 2020. Sam joined Visiting Angels Newton/Canton in 2007 and is valued as a stellar member of our team. He has been chosen as our Angel of the Month for his commitment to his work, his professionalism, and his incredible compassion.

Sam has twenty-four years of professional experience in the home care field. Sam demonstrated his natural affinity towards helping others long before moving to the United States in 1996 from Uganda. In his home country, he volunteered for the Red Cross, helping people injured in the ongoing war. Sam is one of nine children. In him, his aunt saw his empathy and kind heart shine through at a very early age and asked him to help her. He assisted his aunt every morning and evening before providing much-needed aid to others.

When asked what has guided Sam to be so successful as a professional caregiver, he explained, “My experience in my early days assisting people during the war gave me the drive to do what I can to help others live good lives. My goal is to be there for my clients in a way that helps them feel better and not give up – to see that there is more life to live.”

Sam enjoys getting to know his clients and learning about who they are as people and connecting with them. This attitude helps Sam put together a plan to support his clients with health issues or daily tasks they may resist. His method has allowed him to succeed when a client may become agitated or have difficulty with pain management. He reads the expression on their face and evaluates their physical behavior. Sam has also learned through the years to set boundaries and limits with his clients, establishing a healthy level of respect within the client/caregiver relationship.

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“My advice to other caregivers would be to connect with your client on a personal level,” Sam said. “Give them space when needed, and read the changes in their behavior to plan how you proceed. Remember that you are doing something good for another person, helping them to be comfortable in their later years.”

When Sam arrived in the United States, his first wife was already here, working as a home care provider. She recommended the field to Sam, and he soon earned his Home Health Aide (HHA) certification. He worked for various agencies before joining Visiting Angels Newton/Canton, after being referred to us by a friend.

Sam has enjoyed being a member of our team throughout the years. He values the educational opportunities and support he has received from the staff and case managers. Sam is incredibly grateful to work with RN Case Manager Katherine Jennings on his present case.

“Katherine is completely engaged,” Sam said. “When there are issues or supplies needed by the caregivers for our client, she is right there, making sure we have what we require to do our jobs properly. She checks in and gives us guidance and encouragement.”

Katherine shared how much she has thoroughly enjoyed working with Sam. “He is a lovely person and has been an integral part of the team working with our client. Not only has Sam been fully dedicated and reliable on his shifts, but he also helped me out with a new case that required immediate live-in care. He was fantastic! Sam is so involved and helpful to our client. He takes him fishing and works to keep him engaged in positive activities. I can attest to Sam doing his job with his motto in mind. He is helping our client live his best life under extremely challenging circumstances. I could not be happier for Sam to be celebrated as our Angel of the Month.”

When Sam is not working, he spends quality time with his family. He watches the news and enjoys movies. Sam loves to be outdoors, but his greatest joy is spending as much time as he can with his grandchildren.

We are so thrilled to have Sam as our Angel of the Month for October 2020. Thank you for your professionalism, integrity, humor, and the remarkable compassion you have shown with each of our clients. We are grateful to have you as a star member of the Visiting Angels Newton/Canton team.