

W. Scott Whitehead II

Age: 46

Education: Three associate degrees from SUNY Sullivan, Associate in Applied Sciences (nursing)

Place of employment: New Hope Community

Current title and duties: Caseload RN

Years of experience: 3 years as an RN and 25+ years working with people who have Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (IDD)

Why did you choose this career? Becoming an RN was a career progression while working with people with developmental disabilities in Sullivan County. In 2000, I started my career as a Direct Care Professional. I worked within the Residential Department for 20+ years. I knew my professional career plateaued within that department, and I needed to start a new career. Becoming an RN allowed me to stay supporting the same people within the organization.

Favorite part of your job: Engaging with the people whom I support every day. I have known many of the people for more than half my life, and they are more than just "patients"; many are like family.

Most challenging part of your job: Balancing OPWDD regulations with limited staffing and increased caseloads while still providing care for the people who live at New Hope Community.

Favorite on-the-job memory: Too many to pick one. The most recent was participating in the Special Olympics fundraising flag football tournament, "The Buffalo Bowl," for the past

2 years. We were the only unified team to participate. That's where staff and people who are supported play together. We practiced hard and played well against the other teams. This event is held at the Buffalo Bills Stadium and is a great experience for everyone, thanks to New Hope for providing funding and opportunities to raise funds to cover the costs.

How do you manage your time? I try to take care of the most important first. As nurses, we are trained to prioritize patient needs and provide care to those who need it most first. As a caseload RN, there are a few true emergencies; however, I do try to address the most pressing need first. I try to limit the everyday distractions.

What advice do you have for someone entering your field? Remember why you are here and why you became a nurse. As an IDD nurse, the reward you get is helping the people who are on your caseload, and because it's long-term care, you can see the impact you have on someone's life.

Who inspires you? People who can face their challenges and give their best effort, no matter the situation.

Favorite TV show: The Pitt

Favorite actor: Tom Hanks
Favorite vacation spot: Still searching for it.

Family members: Daughter Aidan, Wife Lynn, Mom Betty, 3 Sisters Keri, Leigh and Kellee, and several nieces and nephews.

If you could have any job, what would it be? College Scout for The NY Giants



Congratulations

Scott Whitehead

Thank you for your dedication to promoting the health, independence, and advocacy for the people we support.



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