

2025 Longevity Employees Narratives

October 24, 2025

5 Years

Tracy Bell

Position: CAT Mentor

Supervisor: Christina Colquitt

I want to take a moment to recognize and sincerely thank Tracy Bell for her dedication and commitment over the past 5 years. Tracy, your hard work, unwavering reliability, and genuine care have made a lasting impact on everyone around you. You are always willing to share your wisdom, offer guidance, and support the growth of those around you. Your impact reaches far beyond your role, and we are so grateful for everything you have contributed and continue to bring to the team!

Sheremah DeJesus

Position: Administrative Service Manager

Supervisor: Alexis Day

Sheremah leads with H.E.A.R.T; The trust and connection she's built with her staff are a true reflection of the values we hold dear at Meridian. She shows up every day with purpose, compassion, and a drive to make things better; not just for her team, but for everyone around her.

Her journey is a powerful example of growth and impact. Starting out as front desk staff, Sheremah has worked her way up to overseeing all front desk operations across the South. That's no small feat, and it speaks volumes about her dedication, her leadership, and her ability to rise to any challenge.

Sheremah, it's truly a pleasure having you on my team. I'm proud of everything you've accomplished, and I'm excited to see what you'll continue to achieve in the future. [Congratulations](#) on five incredible years; and thank you for everything you do.

Lori-Beth DiLeo

Position: Clinician-CCBHC Centralized Intake

Supervisor: Cindy Thomas

We congratulate Lori on her 5th anniversary at Meridian. Lori is an invaluable member of the CIT team. Lori has had lots of experiences working at Meridian. Originally, Lori started in the CSU, and then she worked at the MAT clinic. Lori also worked in outpatient before she found her home in CIT. Lori says that she loves that she can work from home, and she enjoys her coworkers. I have only supervised Lori for a short time; however, I know her to be reliable, a team player, easy to work with, and I enjoy her fabulous sense of humor. I look forward to many years of Lori being on my team and am grateful for her service to Meridian.

Danielle Dixon

Position: Staffing Administrator

Supervisor: Richard Anderson

Danielle Dixon has shown outstanding dedication during her five years at Meridian. Danielle began as the Executive Assistant for housing. As the Executive Assistant, Danielle quickly proved herself capable of not only doing that job but taking over other responsibilities in other programs within Meridian. Her adaptability in taking on new challenges provided her with the opportunity to move to another position within the organization. She became Staffing Administrator on June 28, 2021, stepping up amidst the challenges of the COVID-19 crisis. She was the only employee on duty to be responsible for staff coverage.

Danielle took charge during the pandemic, providing critical leadership and 24/7 staffing coverage for all inpatient and residential programs. Her problem-solving skills helped Meridian manage staffing shortages and maintain continuous care for clients.

Danielle consistently responds to staffing emergencies and ensures that program needs are met. Her reliability and attention to detail have strengthened Meridian's

ability to maintain quality services and regulatory staff coverage for the inpatient and residential programs.

Danielle Dixon dedication, resilience and commitment in her role as Staffing Administrator makes her an invaluable asset to Meridian.

Carol Ann Keller

Position: LPN-Acute Care

Supervisor: Shalonda Ford

Carol has been with Meridian for approximately 5 years at the CSU in Lake City, she has thrived throughout her career at the CSU. Days can be long and tough, but she manage to make it through.

She goes above and beyond to care for her clients and her coworkers, She shows great empathy and compassion towards others and is always kind. She has received a new grand baby this year and was able to successfully adopt her grandson. This has been a GREAT year, and I hope to see many more to come.

Thanks for being Great and always having a smile !

Brooke (Janice) Lupinacci

Position: Jail based MAT Peer Specialist

Supervisor: Gade Duerksen

We are pleased to recognize Brooke for her five years of dedicated service at Meridian. Throughout her time here, Brooke has consistently demonstrated a deep commitment to supporting clients and helping improve lives throughout the Starke community. Her passion for her role is evident in the care and attention she brings to every interaction.

Brooke is a consistent presence in the community, known for her desire to ensure individuals have access to the resources they need. Her genuine concern for others and her drive to make a meaningful impact reflect the values we hold at Meridian. We extend our sincere appreciation to Brooke for her contributions and look forward to her continued success.

Mariah Martin

Position: Specialist - Recovery

Supervisor: Richard Anderson

Mariah Martin has served as a Recovery Specialist dedicated to supporting individuals struggling with substance abuse for the past five years. During this time, Mariah has demonstrated unwavering commitment and compassion in her work with clients facing these difficulties.

One of Mariah's most notable accomplishments is her dedication to the clients and her ability to assist them to achieve recovery and maintain sobriety. Mariah's work extends beyond her role as a Recovery Specialist as she regularly collaborates with the treatment and management team to advocate for client needs and contributes to continual improvements in the program. Her integrity and reliability make her a valued employee and an asset to Meridian.

Emily Masten:

Position: CAT Team Manager

Supervisor: Tina Harkness

Emily Masten started with Meridian working as a Clinician for MRT and then she moved to the CAT Team Lead position for the Northeast Area. She strives to provide a strong leadership for her team. She enjoys learning and growing and she constantly asks for Leadership training and ways to make improvements and develop her skills. Emily is a pleasure to work with and an asset for her team. Thank you, Emily, for believing in Meridian and remaining a strong team member!

Felicia McDaniel

Position: CAT Team Manager

Supervisor: Cynthia Aleman/Tina Harkness

Although Felicia is no longer part of OP Services at the Live Oak office because she has been promoted to Manager with CAT Services, she was a valuable member of our team. I had the privilege of working with Felicia for a year where I witnessed her dedication with her school clients, her passion for helping others, and her disposition to be a mentor for new employees. Felicia is a compassionate Meridian that shows she has the heart to help others, and it shows in every little thing she does for her clients when she goes above and beyond to meet client needs.

Carrie Rusin

Position: MAT Clinician

Supervisor: Michelle NesSmith

Carrie has been part of the MAT Clinic family first in 2016, she left for a small amount of time and rejoined the team in 2020. Carrie not only brings expertise and skills to her role as a clinician, but she also brings teamwork to her coworkers and source of genuine support to her clients. As Carrie's supervisor, I can always count on her to be present and willing to jump in and assist when/where needed to get our job done. Carrie manages a huge caseload in several clinics and makes it LOOK easy when it is not. She is always up to date on documentation and excels at maintaining her productivity of 100% and over at all times. I, MAT Service clients, staff and Meridian overall, are truly blessed to have Carries as part of our team!

Shelley Stroud

Position: Program Manager-Recovery – Lake City

Supervisor: Richard Anderson

I have worked with Shelley for many years in several roles at Meridian. She has always excelled in these roles. Nearly two years ago, Shelley contacted me about different job opportunities to advance her career with Meridian. I spoke to her about the Recovery Center job. She voiced interest in the position and was later hired. Over the past two years, Shelly has played a pivotal role in transforming the Recovery Center into a more effective, compassionate, treatment oriented and client-centered environment. Her hands-on leadership style has fostered more collaboration, accountability, and continuous improvement among staff members. Shelley has made herself available 24/7 providing accessibility to community partners, clients and her staff. She works tirelessly to take care of the clients, staff and to ensure the success of this program

Through her unwavering commitment and innovative approach, she has significantly improved the quality of care and services provided for residents at the Recovery Center. Shelley has led several successful initiatives, including obtaining several donations that have enhanced the facility grounds and provided additional space for therapeutic activities. She is a valuable member of the management team and exemplifies the core values that Meridian represents.

Kelsey Thurman

Position: LPN – Acute Care - Lake City

Supervisor: Shalonda Ford

Kelsey has been with Meridian for approximately 5 years at the CSU in Lake City, she has thrived throughout her career at the CSU. She enjoys being on the unit and interacting with her Clients especially the children. Kelsey is very caring, loving and overall has a great heart.

She goes above and beyond to care for her clients and her coworkers, She shows great empathy and compassion towards others and is always kind. She is enjoying her life as a newlywed and a mother. This has been a GREAT year, and I hope to see many more to come.

Thanks for being Great and always having a smile!

Kiambe Tunsil

Position: Clinician

Supervisor: Lizette Lopez

We are pleased to recognize Kiambe for his five years of dedicated service at Meridian. We honor you in recognition of your commitment and contributions across multiple programs such as Recovery Center, CSU and Outpatient Services within Meridian Healthcare. Your compassion, professionalism and adaptability have made a meaningful difference in the lives of those we serve. Thank you for your ongoing dedication to our clients and the positive energy you bring to our mission every day. It is always nice to hear, as we have heard multiple times, Mr. T(Kiambe Tunsil) taught me coping skills or helped me deal with grief. Your work truly changes lives and we thank you.

LaTanya Williams

Position: Nurse-OTP/MAT

Supervisor: Gade Duerksen

We are proud to honor LaTanya Williams for five years of dedicated service as a nurse at Meridian. LaTanya is known for her dependability, kindness, and inviting approach to care. Her sense of humor and positive attitude create a welcoming environment for both clients and colleagues.

LaTanya's knowledge and commitment to encouraging and educating clients and staff alike, make her a valuable asset to the team. She consistently goes above and beyond to support those around her, and her impact is felt daily. Thank you, LaTanya, for your continued commitment and the meaningful impact you make every day.

Leisa Watson

Position: Counselor III

Supervisor: Arthronia Hosley

I've had the pleasure of supervising Lesia for over three years as Program Director of the MIST Program. Throughout this time, she has consistently demonstrated dedication, professionalism, and a strong work ethic. Lesia is a reliable team player who goes above and beyond to support both staff and clients. Her commitment to excellence makes her an invaluable asset to our program.

Joyce Wilson

Position: Customer Service Specialist

Supervisor: Sheremah DeJesus

Known to many as Larayne, she's just "a Perry girl" with an enormous heart and that's what clients need, compassion. She gives all clients love and respect, it doesn't matter if they're in her immediate area or in Palatka. Larayne is here to serve the clients seeking help through our services and celebrate with them their own Mental Health accomplishments. She has been a great asset to the Tri-County area, I appreciate her as a person first and an employee second, thank you Larayne for your dedicated 5 years.

10 Years

Jessica Lee Albritton

Position: Certified Medical Assistant (CMA)

Supervisor: Gade Duerksen

We are proud to celebrate Jessica Albritton's 10-year anniversary with Meridian. Over the past decade, Jessica has been an invaluable member of the MAT team, consistently demonstrating professionalism, compassion, and a strong commitment to patient care.

Her ability to build meaningful connections with patients, respond to their needs efficiently, and maintain a positive attitude makes her a standout team member. Jessica's dedication, reliability, and willingness to go above and beyond have had a lasting impact on both her colleagues and the individuals we serve. Thank you, Jessica, for your continued excellence and the HEART you bring to your work every day. [Congratulations](#) on this important milestone!

Dr. Steven Pickert

Position: Staff Psychiatrist

Supervisor: Dr. Mathew Nguyen

Dr. Pickert has been a pleasure to work with, as he is always willing to jump in to assist in anyway he can. He is very well-liked by his trainees and has received excellent reviews from both the medical school and North Florida for his mentorship. Amazing that he has been here 10 years. Here's to the next 10.

Paula Batie

Position: Customer Service Specialist

Supervisor: Donna Rowland

Paula Batie is celebrating 10 years with Meridian. Paula is a tremendous asset to Meridian and to our team.

Paula has worked in many of our residential programs which not only gave her a wide variety of experience, but she is very familiar with many of our clients because of her past experiences with them.

Our clients respect her greatly and will readily take advice from her. Paula has worked in CSU, Detox, Bridge House, SAPP, Mist, The Lodge and now Primary Care.

Paula is invaluable to Primary Care. She is also a CNA and is very quick to jump in and assist with vitals. She has a great command of the front desk, the phones and the walk-ins and all the chaos that surrounds the "up front" area.

I tease all the time that people only think I manage the place, but Paula is the one that has command. We love her dearly and hope she stays with us for a very long time.

20 Years

Cathleen Jones

Position: Food Service Coordinator

Supervisor: Irene Porter

Cathleen has been an outstanding leader and a pillar of strength in our organization. Her unwavering dedication over the past 20 years has not only shaped our success but also inspired those around her. Through her commitment, integrity, and visionary leadership, Cathleen has made a lasting impact that continues to elevate our team and culture. We are deeply grateful for her contributions and proud to celebrate this incredible milestone with her.

40 Years

Brenda McGlon

Position: Customer Service Specialist

Supervisor: Sheremah DeJesus

She's a sweetheart with a keen spirit and a wonderful asset to not only to me but to Meridian overall. Showing dedication to serving and helping her community, working in multiple departments during her tenure, being able to work with that type of knowledge and wisdom is an award itself. When she first joined my team, I did not know that much about her, but I quickly learned she's a celebrity, everyone knows her! I appreciate her as a person first and an employee second. If there was only one word to describe Brenda I wouldn't be able to choose, she's stylish, compassionate and voiceful, thank you Brenda for your dedicated 40 years.