

# I Am Meridian - Longevity Honorees

Nominating Period: April 1, 2024 – September 30, 2024

## 5 Years of Service (18)

- **Michelle Chastain, LPN – Acute Care**

Michelle is a great employee to work with and shows teamwork while working in the CSU. She helps not only the Gainesville location but Lake City as well. Her experience as an LPN shows daily in her attention to the medical details of a client's health even though we are a mental health facility. Michelle helps keep a therapeutic environment and schedule for the clients on the unit. She's a resource for new LPN nurses and the mental health techs she works with. I am happy to see how Michelle has grown and will continue to grow in our organization. She keeps a positive attitude and greets her coworkers and the clients with a smile. I am happy that she is a part of the CSU family that serves our clients.

- **Manette Cheshareck, Clinician**

Thank you Manette for your 5 years of dedication and passion to the clients and programs you have been part of with Meridian. You have worked with clients through our MIST Program, CCBHC, ACT, but through it all the Mobile Response Team has been a constant from the beginning to present-day. Yet, even in this program you have shifted roles starting as a Care Coordinator in Lake City housed in the CSU moving your way into the Clinician role as you successfully completed the MSW program at St. Leo. But anyone who knows you should know the learning does not stop here. Your desire to learn continues with every client and every assessment. Your extensive knowledge of working on the crisis line for MRT and familiarity with referral sources, internal and external, has placed you in a role we often rely on for training new staff and seeking consultation with on cases. You are viewed by your peers as knowledgeable, dependable, loyal, dedicated, thorough. For all these reasons and many more, I am hoping, wishing, crossing my fingers, and saying my prayers we have you for [at least] another 5 years!

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- **Markina Edwards, Specialist - Recovery**

Markina Edwards has been on our residential team since the fall of 2022. She helped us open Williams Manor Residential Treatment Facility and has been an important member of that unit. She helps the residents achieve their goals by assisting them with self-administration of their medications, helping to coordinate their care with providers, and supporting her teammates as we all work to improve what we provide to the people we serve. She is a valuable member of the unit, and we hope to see her grow through many more years with us.

- **Megan Flanagan, Clinician**

Thank you, Megan, for your 5 years of dedication to the clients and programs you have been part of with Meridian. Thank you, for all you do for the clients here at Meridian and the Chiefland area.

- **Princess George-Howard, PRN Mental Health Technician**

Princess George is an all-around AMAZING employee. She has so much great care for all of the clients at Meridian. She takes the time to get to know the clients and what they are interested in, she listens to them when they just need a second to vent, and most importantly she pays close attention to them and knows right away when something is wrong even when they don't say anything. I have witnessed clients stopping by the CSU to update her on their progress and to thank her for all of the help they received while they were here. Thank you, Princess, for all of your hard work and dedication to this company, it does not go unnoticed.

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- **Stacey Greger, Clinician**

Stacey Greger is an amazing team player. She represents Meridian in the schools and community by building positive relationships with clients, families and school staff. She volunteers to do outreach at school and community events. Stacey helps our team by assisting in training new clinicians. Stacey knows the importance of self-care for work-life balance. She enjoys taking care of her pets, traveling on day trips to thrift shops and quirky restaurants. In the past 5 years Stacey has been an essential support and always generous to help others.

- **Elizabeth Harvey, Data Analyst-State Reporting**

Elizabeth is one of those teammates that everyone wants on their team. Daily she comes into work with hustle and always willing to pitch in to help in any area that she can. Elizabeth leads by example and is an amazing mentor to her co-workers. She is known for her ability to fatten up the entire department with weekly treats and is also known as the department's cheerleader with her steadfast commitment to birthdays and holiday decorating!

### Here are some things her peers have to share:

Elizabeth is an amazing individual who cares not only about her role and responsibilities but about those of the employees and clients. She goes out of her way to make sure everyone involved has the highest level of service. - James

She is such a great team player. - Lashanda

Elizabeth is a great team player and is always very helpful. She is always willing to go extra miles to help anyone.

She is a valuable asset to our department. Elizabeth is a great pleasure to work with. A true diamond! -Lisa

Elizabeth is a joy to work with, she always has a smile to share that can make the most challenging days seem easier. In short, SHE ROCKS!! - Mimi

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- **Tara James, PRN Mental Health Technician**

Tara James is what I like to call a "go getter!" She has trained in all of the inpatient and residential units in GV and LC and she does all that she can to make sure that the units are covered. She is kind to everyone she meets and provides excellent customer service. Most importantly, when we have new employees who start floor training, she provides a warm welcome to them and makes sure that they are well trained. She has received plenty of compliments saying that when she is working on a shift, she helps keep everything calm and in order. Thank you, Tara, for all you do for the clients here at Meridian.

- **Katherine Jordan, Care Coordinator**

5 years, WOW! I have had the opportunity of supervising Ms. Kathy over the past 8 months. One thing I have come to appreciate about her is that she is always willing to step up and go above and beyond with helping and providing access to resources for our clients. You can relate to some of our clients that makes them feel seen and heard, and for many, this is priceless. Your humor and witness keep us laughing. And your love for others is felt once people get to know you. Thank you for all of your hard work and dedication over the past 5 years of service to Meridian and to our clients. We appreciate you!!!

- **Joyce Luther, Customer Service Specialist**

Joyce has been a part of the Customer Service team for the past five years; however, I think that it is important to state that before that she was at Meridian from 2001-2018 serving at the capacity of a Certified Medical Assistant. To me that shows true dedication to Meridian and our purpose. Joyce shows up every day ready to serve our clients and assist with anything I ask of her such as covering other locations or helping other staff learn their job duties. Joyce is an exceptional employee and a great asset to the Customer Service Team.

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- **Tammy McCalmont, Billing Analyst**

Tammy has been a great asset to the Meridian family. She's very knowledgeable with billing policies and is well rounded in other areas such as authorizations and front desk functions. She's self-reliant and very helpful with assisting her fellow coworkers. Since my tenure, she has proven to be a hard worker, who's dedicated and committed to getting that money (In my Denzel voice). I look forward to continuing to work cohesively with Tammy as we continue to advance.

- **Kathy Powers, LPN – Acute Care**

Ms. Kathy is one of the most dedicated, hardworking, and innovative people I've had the pleasure of working with. In these last 5 years of working together I've had the opportunity to watch her work in her greatest element and work alongside her doing what we do best. Ms. Kathy is loving, compassionate, kind, and never misses the opportunity to help others. She always goes over and beyond for the individuals we served and even her colleagues. She's always willing to go the extra mile. Kathy is the type of person you can count on to keep a cool head in a stressful situation, and her positive attitude is contagious. For these reasons, I'm grateful to celebrate Ms. Kathy 5 years of service. Congratulations on your acknowledgement. It is well deserved.

- **Julie Rada, Executive Assistant**

Julie is a critical part of who we are as a program. She has done an amazing job since she has been here and has done everything asked of her and more. She has demonstrated such a strong set of values and a high standard of work and is very proactive. I am very thankful for all that she has done thus far. I appreciate the fact that she always brings excellent quality to what she does, and she is someone I trust has everyone's best interests at heart. I am so proud of who she is and the person she continues to be. I am grateful that she continues to learn and grow more every day and look forward to her continuing to be a part of our program.

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- **Ambria Rutledge, Central Services Clerk/Driver**

Bri is currently a Central Services mail Clerk/ Driver. She started her career as a kitchen aide and found her way to our Central Services Department where she thrived. She is dedicated to her job and her department. She is always willing to assist our maintenance and custodial departments when we are short-handed or have an urgent situation. Bri is dedicated to Meridian's goals and purpose. She will go above and beyond to ensure all departments have what they need and is proactive in keeping every department running smoothly.

- **Rontica Samuel, Unit Supervisor**

Congratulations Rontica on reaching a milestone of 5 years with Meridian Health!! Your consistent hard work, creativity, and willingness to help have been significant in your work journey. Wishing you an awesome 5-year work anniversary! Your sustained dedication to the CSU, its patients, and staff and your positive influence have helped shape our team's continued and growing success. Thank you so much for all that you do every day! We all appreciate you so much!

- **Amanda Stokes, Customer Service Specialist**

Amanda has been with us full time but currently serves as our PRN staff and has been with Meridian for 5 years total. In the time I have grown to know Amanda I've learned she is a strong individual with tenacity. She's more than just a Meridian, she's a mother with ambition and she's an entrepreneur, she's a student furthering her education all for a better future for her children. She is more than just my employee, she's an example of not giving up! Thank you, Amanda, for being a part of our community!

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- **Dennis “Keith” Timberlake, Maintenance**

Keith Timberlake is a hardworking, dedicated teammate. Keith was re-hired on June 14, 2019, after a short 2-month absence. Keith worked at Meridian for nearly 2 years prior to his rehire. Keith has become very efficient in his duties and is now my "go to guy" when I need things done that I can't get to in a timely manner. Keith is very effective listening to staff and getting things done the way they requests. Thank you, Keith, for all you do, it is great to have you on our team.

- **Laurie White, Care Coordinator**

For the past five years, Lauria White has been an invaluable asset to our Mobile Response Team East as a dedicated Care Coordinator. Her commitment to ensuring clients receive the services they need is unmatched, and she consistently goes above and beyond to make meaningful connections for them. Currently pursuing her MSW from Howard University, she brings an even deeper understanding of social work to her role. Many of the care coordination documents that guide our processes today were crafted by her, showcasing both her expertise and attention to detail. We are fortunate to have such a hardworking and compassionate professional on our team.

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## **10 Years of Service (3)**

- **Stacy Camiel, LPN – Acute Care**

Stacy has been an amazing employee while working in the CSU. Stacy works one of the hardest shifts in the CSU at night. Many people cannot work night shift, so we are very grateful for her. She contributes by helping keep the clients calm, comfortable and helping answer many questions they forgot to ask during the day. She has helped in the Gainesville location and learned to work the detox unit in Gainesville as well. Stacy is a team player and her coworkers love having her on shift. We are thankful that Stacy continues and chooses to work as a part of our amazing team.

- **Bethany Camps, Senior Specialist - HIM**

Bethany, thank you for your years of dedication and commitment to Meridian. Your contribution over the years has played an important role in our growth, and we appreciate your loyalty and the unique perspective you bring to the HIM team. We value the time and effort you've dedicated to us. Wishing you the best for continued success. Happy 10-year Work-anniversary.

- **Mike Hosey, Program Director-Williams Manor**

Mike Hosey has been the Manager for Williams Manor since September 12, 2022, but has been with Meridian working in PSR since April 25, 2014. He has also been able to assist with screenings at the CSU. At Williams Manor, he was instrumental in formulating plans for establishing services, hiring the staff, working with the State Hospital, and community partners to fill the program to its capacity with clients. He has developed a service array that is client centered and able to provide stability to the clients. He continues to go the extra mile to assist staff with training and has made himself available to respond to on-going program needs. He works well with his clients, staff and community partners/stakeholders. Mike is a dedicated Meridian employee that has shown that he has many talents that have enhanced program operations within our organization.



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## 15 Years of Service (2)

- **Amy Creamer, Customer Service Specialist**

What can I say about Amy? Amy is very laid back and quiet. She pretty much just goes with the flow and adapts to changes as they come. Amy shows her independent and dependable character on a daily basis by reporting to work on time, working with the clients and completing her job tasks with minimal to no supervision. It has been a pleasure working with Amy in multiple capacities as she continues to be a dedicated employee and great asset to the Customer Service Team.

- **Brian Wilson, Program Manager**

When you hear “PSR” in Gainesville, Brian Wilson is the person who comes to mind. Even though PSR is a two-person team they have a steady census of 36 clients and 3 Peer Specialists. In March of 2020, at the peak of the Covid pandemic, PSR classes remained open for in-person groups with no outbreaks of the illness. There have been times that were concerned that the program might go away but because of Brian's dedication to client care, it was obvious that PSR was changing lives. Brian is a "can do" person. He is a strong advocate for his clients while ensuring they become as self-sufficient as they can based on each person's ability. In audits, Brian always receives praise for the work he is doing as well as his documentation. When you walk into the PSR building, it feels like home to clients with decorations and welcoming sayings all around. During the holidays there is always a "big to do" with food and prizes. Many clients I spoke to feel like this is their home as they often have no immediate family who spends time with them. Brian's legacy at Meridian will be his work with PSR. However, not anytime soon as Brian is a valued member of the team, and we hope he stays here "forever".

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## 20 Years of Service

- **Brent Norman, PRN Supported Employment – GNV**

Brent Norman exemplifies an employee dedicated to his groundskeeping, car washing, and custodial roles in the Supported Employment Program. During his 20 years working at Meridian, the increase in Brent's self-esteem, self-worth, empowerment and independence has become evident. Brent has worked very hard to succeed in his car washing, groundskeeping, and custodial roles. Brent is a kind, friendly, and dependable individual who truly enjoys his work and is an inspiration to his peers and all who come to know him. I am privileged to have Brent as part of remaining three-person Supported Employment Program.

## 45 Years of Service (Plaque)

- **Betty Jackson, Manager – Communications**

In working with Betty for approximately 4 years and 8 months I find her to be an outstanding employee with a strong passion for excellence. Betty's commitment to ensure successful completion in her duties and responsibilities is second to none. Betty handles the I Am Meridian Celebration, she is the committee head for the Employee Engagement and Diversity Committee, leads the Employee Appreciation Luncheon and the Employee Appreciation Month activities. To include, Betty is also responsible for the shift notes and newsletter during each month. Betty's commitment, loyalty, passion, drive, reliability, discipline, and courage are goals that all of us should strive for to be a successful person and employee. Your years of commitment to our employees, clients, and members of our community is a road all should follow. Congratulations on your 45th year with Meridian.