

## Cleaner/Caregiver

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When I attended grade school, the teacher asked us (students) where would we like to work. My goals were a schoolteacher, tutor, or work in the medical field.

I'd taken medical assistant classes, receiving a diploma, a CPR, and good attendance certificates upon my graduation of my studies.

During my internship, I still managed to hold a job and have a cleaning service.

After 200 hours of unpaid internship, I landed a position with a home healthcare agency, working as a direct care aide with patients in their homes.

It was a big challenge meeting my potential customer, recommended by my husband's female friend. Her mother needed cleaning done. I just fit right in. A time was set up that agreed with both of our schedules.

I wanted to make an impression with her. So, I was prompt on showing up on time.

She and I had gotten acquainted. Exchanged names. Discussed the job at hand.

I had already gotten started and heard her say something positive: "I'm going to call her back because she's doing such a good job."

That's how I got through the tense feeling I was having. Just by her comment. It changed the course of my life ... knowing someone cared enough to voice their opinion ... making me feel better as a person. Giving me strength to help others ... also the courage to encourage others less fortunate.

I wrapped up my work, giving myself a path to work through upon leaving. My customer asked how much. An amount was agreed. She gave exactly that.

She says she'll call me when she needs cleaning service again.

Days, weeks, months passed until I heard from her.

My quest was to seek work elsewhere, being able to pull in several more customers. All became repeat business.