

TRANSCRIPTION: Jim Struthers' Interview with Greenacres Nursing Attendant, 15 January 2014.

So I had no previous training and there was no request for training before I started. There were no formal types of training. And it was just working with whoever you were paired with. You were paired with someone for the first little bit and it wasn't for long. I believe it was, like, 3 shifts. Two or 3 shifts you were paired with someone and then you worked along with them and then you were considered fine to start working, you know, as a staff member.

So it was a very routinized care. You came in, I worked on day shift a lot, and what I remember is I came in. Everybody was to get up, so you started on one end. You had your dirty linen cart and your little silver cart that you took around. And we got everybody up into their wheelchairs. And some people I remember lifting on my own. So there was the, you uh, lifted them up. Put them at the side of the bed, and then into the wheelchair. So some people you were on your own depending on how heavy they were really. And then some that were very heavy, very difficult to transfer, there were two people and you just used you arms and into the chair they went.

So I hurt myself. I was on workmen's compensation for, I believe, it was 2 or 3 weeks. And what happened, I was, um, you **didn't** have enough hands. So when you were toileting, when we were bathing, um, it was very **heavy** work and there was this one woman, and I was trying to transfer her onto a toilet, and she had to be in excess of 250 to 300 lbs. And like I said, I was tiny and there was a rail there and I remember turning to try to keep her on the toilet and she was slipping over and I hurt myself trying to prevent her from falling. And so I couldn't move. I twisted my back in a way that I just couldn't get up. And so I was literally at home, flat on my back for a couple of weeks.

I can visualize where we were. We were in the bathroom and it was a big bathroom, and they had, it was, like, an "in and out" kind of thing we did. So the residents were lined up along one wall in wheelchairs and then brought into the bathroom. Some were put on the toilet and some were not. Some were just lifted in their chairs. The "green pads." We had these big green pads. They were green on one side and kind of a softer white material on the inside. You would just lift up the resident, again with your arms. So one person would be on one side and one person be on the other. Lift the resident up. Take the green pad out and put a new one in and then they were wheeled out. And if they were dirty from breakfast, you know they still had their bib on or something on their face, you wiped their face and "off you went." And off they went and out the next door, the other side. And so some people who were able to be toileted were transferred to the toilet, one of the toilets that were there. And the way it was, from what I do remember, is kind of, we were trying to get things done. And so there was no sense of safety or caution when we were doing the people. It was like "we need to get this done" and so there was the sense that if you didn't want to bother the next person who was busy doing something else.