

Granny Nannies**Caring for Loved Ones Like Family**

by Bill Ernst

Selecting an agency to provide personalized care for a family member, whether at home or in an alternate care facility, is a major decision. You want only the best. And no matter how skilled or high-tech the care may be, whether at home or in a healthcare facility, the personal touch is irreplaceable. So is trust.

In the home

Many people wait until finding good care for an elderly parent or other family member is imperative. But it's not a good idea to put off getting assistance until that person's condition demands it. Home healthcare early on—including personal care—can have a positive, preventive impact. Recent studies show that elderly people who need but don't have help with daily personal tasks such as dressing and bathing are much more likely to be hospitalized for acute illness than those who receive the help they need. Furthermore, even elderly adults who qualify for nursing-home care can continue to live in their homes provided they get assistance with basic tasks such as bathing, dressing, and preparing meals.

When an elderly family member has a major health crisis, Medicare does provide coverage, including home healthcare—but only for a certain length of time. But Medicare chooses the nurse, who visits on his or her schedule, not the patient's or the family's. And when Medicare coverage stops, so does the care. That's where Granny Nannies steps in, providing the care that Medicare doesn't cover.

Granny Nannies is a nursing agency that specializes in caring for the elderly as well as individuals of any age who have special needs. Their Certified Nursing Aides (CNAs) and Home Health Aides (HHAs) provide care either in the safety and comfort of the patient's own home, or in an alternate-care facility. The CNA or HHA stays with the patient all day and provides basic health and home services such as light housekeeping, feeding, bathing, grooming and more. Each Granny Nannies office will conduct a free, no-obligation assessment of the family member's situation so they can begin to provide the covered services the patient needs.

In assisted living or nursing home

For the family member in a nursing home or assisted-living facility, the nurse/patient ratio often means minimal personal attention. Granny Nannies can step into that situation, as well. Because Granny Nannies is both a licensed nursing agency and a private-duty agency, the family can hire them to provide the family member with round-the-clock, long-term care in that facility. The Granny Nannies caregiver is familiar with the patient's routine, and the one-on-one care they can give is far more personalized—a tremendous benefit for both the patient and the family.

It's important to hire a licensed nursing agency, not one that's merely registered. Granny Nannies a licensed nursing agency, and recruits only trained CNAs and HHAs. The Longwood location alone—there are five Central Florida locations—has more than 400 caregivers to choose from, helping to assure the right person for the family member.

Each Granny Nannies caregiver is thoroughly screened, and must pass a stringent check on their credentials, criminal background, references and physical condition. Equally important, they must display the kindness and compassion needed to care for others. All Granny Nannies personnel are bonded and insured, and regularly attend in-service training to keep their skills current.

Rates for Granny Nannies caregivers are not only competitive—they're among of the most affordable in the industry, yet their standards for service are among the highest. They accept many different types of long-term care and workers' compensation insurance, and is a Med-waiver (low income) provider. And they offer more products and services than do most other agencies.

Quality care for an elderly family member doesn't have to be a financial or emotional nightmare. Whether the need is individualized attention in a facility or a gentle hand to aid that person in their own familiar surroundings, many families find the advocacy and peace of mind that Granny Nannies provides priceless. **!** Granny Nannies, 1912 Boothe Circle, Ste. 300, Longwood; 800.31.NANNY (800.316.2669); grannynannies.com.

**Before You Hire Home Healthcare**

Before hiring a home healthcare provider, have your family member assessed by a qualified professional to determine his or her medical needs and physical abilities. Then when you explore home healthcare agencies and providers, be sure to ask these questions:

- Are you licensed with the state?
- Are you bonded and insured?
- How long have you been in business?
- Are your caregivers trained and screened?
- What are your fees? What do they cover?
- How long is the contract?
- Will my insurance cover your services?
- Have you/the company ever been reprimanded by the state?
- Do I have a say in the caregiver who would be assigned to my family member?
- When can the caregiver start?