

03/05/15

Good Evening,

My name is Rosemarie Giardina. I am the Administrative Assistant to Maria Cheney, the Director of the Residential Facility (the Domicile) here at Rocky Hill Veterans' Home.

I became a state employee in 1999, and through the Governor's Reduction in Workforce in 2003, I ended up in a department that was really unpleasant. I was determined to make a change and so I got busy. By attending a job fair - I landed here at "The Rock" and I can honestly say I am truly grateful for this opportunity.

One of my job responsibilities is that of Admissions Coordinator. I assist Veterans who are homeless or are in need with the application process for residing in the Domicile. I share lots of information about our facility – from the moment you make that call here, from the time you get here, for as long as you're here – We are here to assist you! I will, because "I Care."

There are opportunities at "The Rock." With an affordable program fee, food served, medical, transportation, recovery support, recreation therapy, work therapy, schooling, appeal process and independent housing assistance offered – one could progress in many areas along with making and saving money for sure.

My mantra to Veteran's being admitted here is: Set Reasonable Goals and Stay Focused.

I came here around the same time Commissioner Linda S. Schwartz was appointed, and I have thanked her and now Acting Commissioner Joseph Perkins for the number of improvements that have been made during their time here.

Is it perfect here? – NO, however, we are moving forward and making progress. When I hear a complaint, I suggest that the person gets involved in the process of changing things. Back in 2003, when I was unhappy in my situation – I took charge. Anyone can!

With what we have to work with, thank goodness I still see the miracles, still hear positive feedback, and still feel good for everyday that I serve "Those That Served."

I'll leave you with something to think about. More Staffing/Resources + More Money = More Programs and Services for our Veterans!

Thank you.