“The daffodil has a special meaning for me”

**Marlene** has been a Marie Curie Nurse for three years and feels supported when she sees people wearing their daffodils.

“I’ve been working in nursing homes for 23 years, and for the last three I’ve been a Marie Curie Nurse. At the beginning of my nursing career, when I encountered death I was terrified. I’d be nervous and shaking.

“But now I’ve realised that death is a part of living. It is a comfort to know that I’m able to help people, and their relatives, in the last days of their lives.”

## Care and attention

“In a nursing home, you often can’t give proper one-to-one care to the patients – the timeframes you’re working with just don’t allow it. As a Marie Curie Nurse, I’m able to give 100% care and attention to my patients all the time. I love that aspect of my job.

“There are qualities you need to be a good Marie Curie Nurse. Tolerance, patience, knowledge, kindness and compassion. You have to know how to empathise and to be able to deal with situations in a really calm manner.”

## The little things

“I once gave a patient a shower at 5am because the day carers didn’t have time to give her a proper wash. She hadn’t had a shower for a long time and begged me to. So, although it was the middle of the night, I gave her a nice shower. She felt so good after that.

“I love that the people I care for are surrounded by their family, friends, their own environment, their pets, their bed. In hospital or a nursing home everything is scheduled, every visit or meal. At home you can wake up any time and it’s my job to be there.”

## Feeling supported

“The daffodil has a special meaning for me, it represents the way I care for my patients. I’m proud to say that I’m a Marie Curie Nurse, that I’ve looked after and cared for all my patients – different kinds of patients – all my life.

“I want to say thank you for all the support I get as a Marie Curie Nurse. I hope we’re able to care for as many of our supporters as possible, and their friends and family. One day, in the future, we’ll be giving you the best care possible.”

*Source* [*https://www.mariecurie.org.uk/blog/marlenes-story/224897*](https://www.mariecurie.org.uk/blog/marlenes-story/224897)