

Donna Gayles- Capital Caring Health Patient Advocate

Donna R. Gayles is a Patient Advocate and Care Liaison to the Washington D.C. Long Term Care/Assisted Living Communities for Capital Caring Health. As a Patient Advocate, with focus on Faith Based and Community Organization Connection, Outreach and Initiatives, Donna is passionate and dedicated. She comes to the District of Columbia by way of Detroit, Michigan where she was born and received all her formal education.

Although she has been working expertly in the field of hospice care for over a decade, she has continually been involved in ministry and service to others. She has served in various capacities over the years professionally, including Customer Care and Advocacy for AT&T for nearly 10 years.

She had served as a Director of Youth Services and Youth Ministry as well as Local Director of Women's Ministry with the Burns SDA Church in Detroit, Michigan for a combined total of 6 years. She also assisted with the Community Service and Senior Ministries the at Burns SDA Church where her mother Constance Gayles, who is now in her own end-of-life care process with two terminal illnesses, served for more than 20 years. Donna has continuously been instrumental and involved in community outreach and service, being eternally grateful for the full circle that allows her to serve entirely in this capacity with grace, empathy and understanding.

She has provided several community and faith-based trainings to educate and empower our communities with the knowledge that they need to have relevant end of life discussions, including pilot programming for special spiritual engagement projects with Capital Caring Health. Other presentations include those at East River Family Strengthening Collaborative, the Catholic University of America, Howard University Hospital, United Medical Center, Iona Senior Services and various others organizations throughout the region. She's also presented at a vast number of places of worship including The New Macedonia Baptist Church, where Patrick J. Walker, Sr. is the Pastor. Because of this connection, she was a special guest of Pastor Walker's (Also Former President of the Baptist Ministers Conference) at the Baptist Ministers Conference held at the Trinidad Baptist Church where she was afforded the privilege of addressing over 100 ministers, providing them excerpts from her presentation "A Caring Conversation". As a result of that presentation, she was requested to make this presentation to several congregations throughout Washington, D.C and surrounding areas. She's also served as a thought leader and moderator facilitating discussions for a number of organizations including the most recent "Faith, Caregivers, and Cancer; Preserve and Strengthen Family Relationships for the Patcha Foundation's CASEC Information Exchange Conference 2019.

As a certified Rosalynn Carter Institute for Caregiving "Dealing With Dementia" Trainer, member of the Age Friendly DC's Caregiving Committee (Co-Chaired By Gail Gibson Hunt, founder of the National Alliance for Caregiving), AARPDC's "Dream Team", DC HEALTH MOST Train-The-Trainer Cohort as well as having served as the former Co-Chair of the Advocacy and Education Committee for DC Health's Places of Worship Advisory Board and now the newly appointed 2020-2021 Co-Chair of the DC Health's Places of Worship Advisory Board (POWAB) at large, Donna continues to trailblaze opportunities in the community to advocate for and support quality of life and care initiatives.

Although much more can be said of Donna R. Gayles, the most important thing she feels that you need to know is that she is just an ordinary woman, empowered by an EXTRAORDINARY passion for quality end of life care, spreading the "hope of hospice" to all who need it. Donna calls this her "life's work" and feels astonishingly blessed to be able to do it.

You can reach Donna Gayles

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