

Carmen Harper

Hey my name is Carmen Harper and I'm from Brandon, MS. I graduated with a bachelor's degree in nursing from Mississippi College and now am a registered nurse. During my time at MC, I had a class with Lauren and found out about the team through our friendship! When I applied for Team LC, I was about to start my first semester in Nursing School at MC. Prior to working for Lauren, my experience in assisting someone with a disability was limited. I had previously worked a few Parent's Night Out activities at a local church that provided childcare for parents with special needs children. This was the only experience I had around individuals with disabilities. Like any new job, the thing that made me most nervous was just not knowing what to expect, especially since working for Lauren requires you to do such a large variety of tasks. The training someone on the team goes through will walk you through everything and help calm that fear almost immediately. When I saw just how involved someone on the team is with every aspect of Lauren's life, it did make me nervous that I would somehow mess something up or offend Lauren in some way because of how personal some tasks are. Lauren's go-with-the-flow attitude helped tremendously with that too! Lauren is one of the most friendly, down to earth people I have ever met. Her attitude immediately set my mind at ease. This is her "normal", everyday life and she is used to working with new team members so she does everything she can to make you feel more confident and teach you the skills you need. Her whole family is also an incredibly positive and uplifting group, which helped me adjust to her schedule. The other team members were also willing to lend a hand and answer any questions I had. Honestly, one of the main things I learned was just how similar a person's life with "disabilities" is to mine, but also how it can be different. I learned a lot about what it takes to run your own business as well as start a ministry from the ground up. I learned how to be more proactive and prepare for problems before they happen. It taught me to have fun in the face of adversity! Team LC prepared me for having to work with and relate to patients with many different backgrounds as a nurse. It taught me to respect how other people have to live and make decisions depending on their personal situation. It also gave me a small glimpse into some medical responsibilities and conditions that I have to deal with as a nurse. It was an amazing job that gave me experiences to apply to many different areas of life.