

Hetty Adasi came to Canada with a goal. After a 30-year career in nursing that spanned three continents, she wanted to be able to work as a registered nurse.

Today, the 54-year-old mother of three young adults and her husband, along with colleagues at CapitalCare Norwood - where Hetty has worked as a health care aide since arriving in Canada in 2012 - are celebrating her graduation day.



Henrietta "Hetty" Adasi

Norwood health care aide now a nurse

AS A GRADUATE nurse, Hetty still has to complete the requirements of the College & Association of Registered Nurses of Alberta (CARNA) before she can add RN to her name. But for Hetty, who has been battling cancer these past few years, the hardest part of the journey is over.

"I'm so happy," says Hetty, switching between laughter and tears as she retells a story of determination in the face of multiple - and at times discouraging - challenges.

Starts journey in West Africa

Henrietta Adasi started practicing as an RN in 1985 in her home country of Ghana in West Africa. She continued to work as an RN when the family moved to England.

But when the family moved to the United States, her immigration status prevented her from working as an RN, even though she met the requirements to obtain her license. When the family came to Canada, Hetty settled for working as a health care aide so that she could continue doing the work she loves.

"Nursing, it's my passion," beams Hetty. "I love people. I love to hear

'thank you,' 'you are so kind.' I love to help people."

Gets funding from Foundation

Claudette Boisvert is the care manager on the Palliative Unit at Norwood. She encouraged Hetty to get her RN designation and to apply for Post-Secondary Education Funding through CapitalCare Foundation.

"The palliative care team was behind Hetty all the way," says Boisvert. "She is a skilled, kind, and hardworking caregiver dedicated to nursing."

Takes nursing program

Last fall, Hetty started a 10-month accelerated nursing program offered through Mount Royal University in Calgary. Between the frequent trips to Calgary and the radiation treatments for thyroid cancer, there was a lot to discourage Hetty from finishing the course.

"I prayed a lot," says Hetty. "My husband was really supportive. He helped with the cooking, the laundry, the cleaning; I just studied, a lot. The course was intensive."

Hetty successfully completed the

course in June and is now a Bridge to Canadian Nursing (BCN) graduate.

Determination is key to success

She credits her success to her determination, to the encouragement she received from her family and colleagues, and most of all to God for hearing her prayers for strength and energy. She says the funding from CapitalCare Foundation definitely helped with the cost of the program.

"All my life, nursing has been my profession," says Hetty. "I just wanted to get my license to work as an RN in Canada before retirement."

Looks forward to working as RN

Retiring is no longer an option for Hetty. When she completes the final step in the certification process, she hopes to work as an RN at Norwood. She's also praying for some good news about her health.

Congratulations, Hetty. Our thoughts and prayers are with you too!