

# 'Caregiver of the Year' by Utopia Home Care

Utopia Home Care, Inc. announced today that it has named Monica Chung, a Home Health Aide employed by Utopia Home Care for eight years, as its Caregiver of the Year.

At the company's annual corporate breakfast meeting this morning, Utopia Home Care, Inc. President and CEO Manuel F. Martinez and Executive Vice President Diane Martinez presented Chung with a commemorative plaque and a check for \$1,000. The presentation was made before approximately 100 staff members representing Utopia offices in New York, Connecticut and Florida.

Chung was born in Jamaica, West Indies. She came to the United States in 1979 to work as a hairdresser, but missed spending time with people the way she had as a girl. Then she used

to accompany her mother and take home-cooked meals to the sick and elderly people in their community. She became a Home Health Aide in 1996 and three years later took a position at Utopia as a live-in aide.

Since then, she has worked with deep devotion in caring for a number of Utopia's clients. One client who had been sick for 18 months refused to be with anyone but Monica.



Left to right): Manny Martinez, Co-Founder and President, Utopia Home Care; Angelina Martinez, Co-Founder, Utopia; Monica Chung, 2007 Caregiver of the Year, Utopia; Legislator Vivian Viloria-Fisher; and Bob Martinez, representing Legislator Ricardo Montano.

"I was giving her a bed bath and singing," Monica said. "She looked up and I asked, 'Do you want me to keep singing?' She nodded, so I kept singing and stroking her head. She took her last breath as I was singing."

One patient's daughter described her as "epitomizing the gold standard of healthcare professionals." She continued, "The dedication and care my mother received from Monica was

above and beyond what anyone would expect from an aide in the home. She demonstrated wisdom, reliability, compassion and dedication. My family and I are forever thankful to Monica."

Indeed, Chung is so devoted to helping people that during the weeks preceding Thanksgiving and Easter, she takes off work to prepare countless meals with her sister, a cousin and a friend. These meals are served at a church in New York City to about 200 homeless people each holiday. The group, known as "the Generous Four," has done this for five years, footing the entire bill each time.

"Monica is not only a conscientious and dependable worker, but she is also generous and loving, showing those she cares for love and respect," Martinez said.

Among Chung's precious words of wisdom: "Give love and the patient will flourish." "So many elderly people live alone. They are human and need human company." "If you look professional, you will be treated professionally."

Those interested in employment opportunities with Utopia Home Care, or its services, should call (631) 544-0462, or visit [www.utopiahomework.com](http://www.utopiahomework.com)