

## ‘Light at the End of the Tunnel’ Very Close for Rodriguez

Veronica Rodriguez is a working mom, diligent learner and loves people. For her, caring for others has become a way of life. Her story is one of patience, hard work and sacrifice.

After six long years of working at Palm Village, Veronica, 27, is achieving a dream she has had since she was a little girl. She is going to be a Licensed Vocational Nurse (LVN).

Veronica considers herself lucky. With her career starting at Palm Village, she worked her way up the ranks, from stocking medical supplies to the administrative department where she was involved in staffing, scheduling and payroll. Veronica became noticed by her employers as a hard worker that would do anything to get the job done, though she admits she always wanted something more.

“I have always wanted to be a nurse, but money comes first when you’re supporting a family,” said Veronica.

“There were many times I had to work morning ‘till night,” she said as she described her progress. Now that hard work has paid off.

In appreciation of all her hard work, Palm Village is sponsoring her tuition for LVN school.



**FUTURE LVN:** Being a ‘working mom’ has not proven to be an obstacle for Veronica Rodriguez, who has been recognized by Palm Village staff and patients for her dedication, drive and pleasing smile.

And there couldn’t be anyone more deserving of this according to her employers, who are proud of what she has achieved.

Now about half way through the 13-month class that is held in Fresno, she admits that it hasn’t been very easy for her. She has had to make a lot of sacrifices along the way. A hectic work and study schedule makes family life more difficult.

“There have been many times I’ve broken down and cried, but it’s ok... there is light at the end of the tunnel,” she said.

And her warm spirit has already helped others.

“It has been my pleasure to have Veronica as a part of my clinical group... she is always ready with a smile on her face and treats her patients with the utmost care,” said her clinical instructor, Brenda Laing-Leiker.

“One specific clinical rotation

in which she really excelled was when she worked with one particular elderly patient. This patient had not spoken in several months, but because of the attention Veronica paid to her, she began to speak. Veronica gives her best in all she does. She will make a wonderful LVN,” Laing-Leiker said.

After graduation, Veronica is looking forward to working as an LVN at Palm Village where she plans on spending at least the next five years.

