



Spotlight on Our Employees. Maria LaSala

“Maria! Maria! Maria! Maria! Maria! I've just met a girl named Maria, and suddenly that name will never be the same.” (West Side Story)

Everyone loves Maria, the friendly face who greets us in the Dining Room. As the Dining Room Lead, she welcomes us and helps us find a table. In addition, she supervises (and trains) the servers and helps with events. When time permits, she also cooks for us. Her special treats have included biscotti, chocolate salami and ricotta pie for a cooking demo.

Five years ago, Maria started at Canterbury Woods as a part-time server, became a full-time server and eventually assumed her current role. Previously, she worked at Asilomar in housekeeping and the laundry, where she says she had very little contact with the guests or other staff. One of the things, which she likes most about Canterbury Woods, is the fact that she interacts constantly with the residents, whom she considers family -- another set of parents.

Maria was born and raised in Pontedera in Tuscany, where her mother and brother still live. She was introduced to her husband by her cousin who lives in the same small town in Sicily (SanVito Lo Capo) where her husband was born. They were married, but she was unable to move to the US, while immigration issues were resolved. They have a daughter, Josephine (20), a graduate of Monterey High School, who is currently studying accounting online at the University of Phoenix.

She wants everyone to know how much she likes working here!

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