

# Caring continuum

## Absolute Health Care Services named Business of the Month

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JASON WHITE The Telegraph



ALTON — Absolute Health Care Services' celebration of its 10th anniversary coincided with being named the RiverBend Growth Association's Small Business of the Month for December.

The state-licensed agency provides medical and non-medical health services in homes, hospitals, assisted living facilities and nursing homes.

"Wherever a family needs us to provide services is where we provide them," owner Debra Ross said.

Ross started the business in her basement and now has about 100 employees and a satellite office in Maryville that opened last year. Her business serves Bond, Calhoun, Greene, Jersey, Macoupin, Madison, Monroe and St. Clair counties.

Employees provide services such as housekeeping, laundry, meal preparation, escorts to doctor appointments, wound care, drawing blood, injections, accompanying clients to physicians' offices and managing appointments for families. They also offer Alzheimer's and hospice care.

The business provides a free in-home evaluation to develop a care plan with clients and their families.

"We have exceptional caregivers," Ross said. "We're very blessed to have caregivers that are very caring and reliable and go above and beyond. We're blessed to do what we love to do."

One of Ross' career highlights was taking care of her second-grade teacher, a key figure in Ross' formative years, at the end of the former educator's life.

"I like the one-on-one and forming the relationships with the customers and families," she said. "It's been very rewarding — difficult and sad at times. Their insight and their outlook on difficult situations have been eye-opening for me. I've learned a lot of life lessons."

Ross said she is honored to receive the growth association's Business of the Month award.

"I was very humbled being recognized doing what I love to and being recognized for my passion," Ross said.

For information on Absolute Health Care Services, 4124 Alby St., Alton, call (618) 466-1010 or visit the website at <http://ahcshome.com>.

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