

Caregiver's Weekly Journey Reflects a Growing Need

Home Care Association of America names Ingrid Mwansa of B'zoe Care in Washington 2026 Caregiver of the Year, an award sponsored by Paradigm

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EINPresswire.com/ -- Every week for more than three years, Ingrid Mwansa has left home before dawn, driven to a ferry terminal and crossed the water to reach a client living with dementia on a remote Washington island. She has never missed a week.

Mwansa's commitment reflects a workforce that is becoming more essential to American families by the year. As the U.S. population ages and more people choose to remain in their own homes rather than move into institutional care, the need for skilled, dependable caregivers like Mwansa continues to grow.

“

Ingrid's story is a reminder of what caregivers do every day without recognition: showing up, adapting to whatever a family needs and building the trust that lets someone stay in the home they love.”

HCAOA's Allison Dolan



2026 Caregiver of the Year Ingrid Mwansa with Home Care Association of America CEO Jason Lee and B'Zoe Care owner Prossie Lockett

The Home Care Association of America (HCAOA) has named Mwansa, a caregiver with B'zoe Care in Lynnwood, Wash., its 2026 Caregiver of the Year. HCAOA announced the honor during the awards ceremony at its National Home Care Conference. The award is sponsored by Paradigm.

Mwansa was selected from five regional finalists after HCAOA members submitted hundreds of nominations from across the country this year.

Mwansa serves as a live-in caregiver four days a week and regularly covers additional shifts when other caregivers are unavailable. She manages her client's medications, meals and daily

care; trains new caregivers on the case; and accompanies her client to medical appointments in Seattle, advocating for her as she manages advanced dementia.

“Ingrid’s story is a reminder of what caregivers do every day without recognition: showing up, adapting to whatever a family needs and building the trust that lets someone stay in the home they love,” said Allison Dolan, HCAOA’s senior director of communications, marketing and education, who manages the Caregiver of the Year program. “On behalf of HCAOA, I’m proud to celebrate Ingrid as our 2026 Caregiver of the Year.”

Nominators described Mwansa as empathetic, dependable and resilient in navigating a complex family dynamic that includes out-of-state relatives, a power of attorney, a trust management company and a private care manager. That care manager emphasized that the client would not be able to remain in her home without Mwansa's care.

As the nation's leading trade association for non-medical home care, HCAOA is proud to celebrate exceptional caregivers like Mwansa whose work enables Americans to stay in their homes.

“Ingrid's dedication exemplifies the profound impact caregivers have on the lives of those they serve,” said Amber Monroe, senior vice president of enterprise growth for Paradigm, the award sponsor. “At Paradigm, we're honored to support HCAOA's Caregiver of the Year program because we see firsthand how exceptional caregivers like Ingrid make it possible for our nation's seniors and veterans to age with dignity in their own homes. Her commitment is a testament to the heart of home care.”

HCAOA also recognized four other 2026 regional finalists at the conference: Kudirat Akinshiju of Custom Home Care in Chicago; Lisa Ilomin of Home Helpers Home Care in Thousand Oaks, Calif.; Elva “Mitsy” Rice of Village Caregiving in Morgantown, W.Va.; and Rhonda Wilson of Bayada in Shelby, N.C.

About Home Care Association of America



2026 Caregiver of the Year finalists (L to R) Rhonda Wilson of Bayada, Ingrid Mwansa of B'Zoe Care, Lisa Ilomin of Home Helpers Home Care, Kudirat Akinshiju of Custom Home Care, and Elva "Mitsy" Rice of Village Caregiving

Home Care Association of America (HCAOA) is the nation's leading trade association for the home care industry, representing 5,000 agencies and suppliers across all 50 states. Our members provide non-medical care, including assistance with daily living, to seniors, veterans, and people with disabilities, helping them live safely and independently at home. Through advocacy, education, and member collaboration, HCAOA works to strengthen the home care profession and expand access to quality care for American families. Learn more at hcaoa.org.

About Paradigm

Paradigm is a leading revenue cycle management and claims processing platform purpose-built for providers in the home and community-based care services industry. Trusted by more than 4,000 active home care agencies nationwide, the company processes over \$1.6 billion annually in VA and Medicaid claims with deep integrations across federal, state, and managed care programs. Paradigm's payer integrations and intelligent technology are used to reduce fraud, accelerate reimbursements, and strengthen the financial stability of providers who deliver essential care to millions of Americans. The company has achieved four consecutive years of double-digit growth in both revenue and customer adoption and now manages 30% of the VA's home- and community-based care spend. Learn more at paradigmseniors.com.

Allison Dolan

Home Care Association of America

+1 202-519-2962

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