

Mr. Charles, Madagascar

Mr. Charles received a General Nursing Diploma from Manambaro Nursing School in 1982 and for 24 years has worked at **Ankaramalaza**, where he is a Hospital Lab Technician Officer. Innovative and resilient, Mr. Charles is very good at his job! Staff can count on him for accurate lab diagnoses despite sometimes difficult conditions. Sometimes the difficulty lies in convincing patients to accept the diagnosis and receive treatment. Martin is one of those patients. Martin walked for 12 hours to reach Ankaramalaza's Emergency Room, suffering from a chronic cough and sometimes coughing up blood. Mr. Charles' lab test results pointed to TB, but at first Martin and his family were unwilling to believe the diagnosis. Mr. Charles had to convince them that without treatment Martin was likely to die. After careful, patient explanation of his lab results, the disease and its likely progression, he was successful and after two months of intensive TB treatment in the hospital, Martin was cured.

Mr. Charles' skills go beyond calibrating instruments and collecting samples for lab tests. A family man himself, he also helps patients and families understand and accept the science that makes healing possible, and allays their fears.

Nominated by: Jean Clement Ralison

