

Giving News

June/July 2008

Nursing Excellence Honored

Three exceptional nurses were recognized with peer nominated awards at the annual Nurses Week appreciation event held the evening of May 6 at Bridgewood Resort, Neenah.

Tammy Jones, RN, was selected as the 2008 winner of the **Phyllis Leach Excellence in Nursing Award** for her high quality patient care, commitment to being a team player, and her skills in critically thinking through problems and setting priorities. She works in the Post Anesthesia Care Unit/Surgery Department at Mercy and has a passion for nursing that has carried her through 23 years in this demanding profession.



Ginger Selle, VP Patient Care, Mercy
Mary Jane Olson, RN
Bill Calhoun, President, Mercy



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Mary Jane Olson, RN, a nurse in the Intensive Care Unit at Mercy, was the winner of this year's **Dolores A. Wassmann Nurse Mentor Award**. She has been in nursing for 31 years and is currently a pain resource nurse who is often called upon by her colleagues to assist with pain management issues and the care of critically ill patients. She is an excellent role model and a preceptor for new staff and students.

Roxanne Horn, RN, was the recipient of the **Affinity Medical Group Southern Region Nurse Recognition Scholarship Award**. She is an important part of Cardiology services at Mercy Oakwood. With 30 years of experience, she is a great resource for staff, patients, and their families. All three nurses received a continuing education scholarship made possible by the David C. Leach Endowment for Continuing Education of Nurses, the Dolores A. Wassmann Memorial Endowment Fund and a gift from Dan Neufelder, CEO of Affinity Health System, for the Southern Region Nurse Recognition Award.



Roxanne Horn, RN
Karla Repta,
Director of Nursing
Affinity Medical Group

Mercy Health Foundation is proud to be a resource for these award programs. So much of patient care and excellent outcomes depends on the skills and compassion of the nurses who are on the front lines of care.

*To laugh a bit
and joke a bit
And grasp a
friendly hand;
To love a bit
and scold a bit
And know
they'll understand;
To tell one's secrets,
hopes and fears
And share a
friendly smile;
To have a friend
and be a friend
Is what makes
life worthwhile.
unknown*

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Grant Awarded to Hospice

Mercy Health Foundation has approved a grant of \$10,000 to Affinity Visiting Nurses Hospice Services for a feasibility study on building a hospice residence with inpatient capability in Oshkosh. The study will look at potential utilization, community support for a facility, research funding resources, determine the need for endowment for sustainability, and recommend a size, location, and design for the residence. The facility will be used by hospice patients and families who cannot manage end-of-life care in the home setting. There is no other hospice residence in Winnebago County at this time. Affinity Visiting Nurses Hospice Services provided care for 300 patients in 2006, 187 of them in the Oshkosh area. There are three other hospice services in the area which are also likely to refer patients to a residence facility.

At its May meeting, the Mercy Health Foundation Board also approved a grant of \$5,801 for the Affinity Parish Nursing Program for operations through the end of fiscal 2008.

2008 Invitational A Success

Participants and sponsors of the 25th annual Mercy Health Foundation Invitational, held June 2 at Oshkosh Country Club, raised over \$72,700 for cancer diagnostic and treatment services at Mercy Medical Center. The weather cooperated and 30 foursomes were able to enjoy a pleasant afternoon on the course. For the second year, a day at the Evensong Spa in Green Lake was offered as an alternative to golf.

Highlights of the evening program were a lively live auction led by auctioneer Bill Jartz, news anchorman at WBAY-TV, and a gourmet dinner prepared by Oshkosh Country Club Executive Chef Randy Bladzick and guest Chef Mark Vaccaro of Fusion by Mark in Fond du Lac.



The proceeds from the event will be directed first to the cost of digital mammography equipment for the Phyllis Leach Breast Center at Mercy Medical Center, with any remaining funds earmarked for needed equipment or programming in the Michael D. Wachtel Cancer Center at Mercy Medical Center.

The Memory Center to Close

Over the past 10 years, Mercy Health Foundation has been a strong supporter of The Affinity Memory Center and its Medical Director, Dr. Janelle Cooper. The Foundation has raised funds and obtained grants to first develop the Center as a model of clinical care for patients with Alzheimer's disease and other dementias, and then for start-up of the Northeast Wisconsin Safe Senior Driving Assessment Program.

It was with great sadness that we received the news that Dr. Cooper will be leaving the area in July and that The Memory Center will close. This is a wonderful opportunity for Dr. Cooper to pursue her special interest in research on Alzheimer's disease, but a great loss for the Fox Valley area. Thank you to all Foundation donors whose gifts helped make The Memory Center one of the best in Wisconsin.

Tribute Gifts April & May 2008

In Memory of:

John "Jack" Crane

Patsy Jungwirth

Lynn Mary Marcks

Marvin Miller

Jeanette S. Mondl

Agnes E. Nikolaus

Josephine Schneider

Wayne Strey

In Honor of:

Karen Casper

Mary Lu Johnson

Kay Lund

Jean Schneider