



## 2004 Wisconsin Health Care Employee Pride Program Award Recipients



Front, from left: Jean Bruner, Marilyn Strandquist, Brad McNutt, Susan Burke, Judy Stasko  
Back, from left: Sherry Boyce, Connie Cone, Debra Kramer, Lisa Meyer, Nicole Richarz, Debbie Ebel



Front, from left: Dorothy Halvorson, Kim Ogea, Amy Kassing, Alice Sloane, Julie Mead  
Back, from left: Joan Pacetti, Christine Wenta, Jodi Gaglione, Jamie Udulutch, Georgene Trapp, Jackie Schwemmer



Front, from left: Vickie Keigley, Pamela Wunderlin, Gail Vita, Shenandoah Greenwood, Tina Bahr  
Back, from left: Shirley Venz, Mary Kay Sutter, Linda Tyler-Doudna, Susan Hoffman, Mary Rewolinski, Steve Heil



Front, from left: Tania Hassler, Tina Larson, Pam Myhre, Mary Jurgaitis, Barbara Stepanski  
Back, from left: Charles Carpenter, Diane Daffinson, Marilyn Mueller, Kathleen Vega, Carol Aslesen, Sandy Sawyer



Front, from left: Karen Kottwitz, Margaret Morgan, Jenna Mangold, Tammie Cain, Sue Stariha  
Back, from left: Jennifer Bond, Jan Perkins, Colleen Chamberlain, Molly Windorski, Susan Kern, Faith Thiel



Not  
pictured:  
Rea Kae  
Rhodes

Front, from left: Laura Bishop, Amy Uhrmacher, Gail Behlke, Sandy Somsen  
Back, from left: Holly Ainsworth, Tammy Lawver, Sherry Clark, Becky Herman, Kelley Chase

## Guest Column

### **By Judy Warmuth, WHA Vice President of Workforce Development**

I have the perfect antidote for a case of cynicism about hospitals and health care. Read a PRIDE program winning essay.

On May 6, 65 employees were recognized for their dedication to the field of health care at the PRIDE Program reception and dinner at the Kalahari Resort in Lake Delton. I am a soft touch, so the event made me teary eyed with pride. Even for the less emotional among us, it was an event that made you proud to be involved in the hospital industry. The stars of the evening were hospital employees...and they were inspirational! Employees were invited by their hospital employers to submit essays describing why they chose to work in health care. One winner from each participating hospital was honored last night. I had the privilege of meeting each winner, introducing them to the audience and highlighting their winning work.

The winners have been inspired by family members--often moms and grandmoms who encouraged them, by co-workers and frequently by patients themselves. They spoke of feeling, every day, that they made a difference...in the business office, at the main desk and on the clinical units.

Winners from hospice units spoke with pride of the difficult work of helping patients and their families deal with the final stages of life. Others told of the joy of working in an obstetrics unit. They talked of helping patients with their bills and paperwork, of offering directions from the main desk and of just being there for people.

They also spoke with great pride of their hospitals. They highlighted the role that hospitals play in our communities. They often mentioned the role their hospital had played in helping them obtain an education, a job, a promotion.

We all know how valuable our workforce is to our industry. We understand that we can't provide health care without them. We know they are the front line with patients, family and the community. Last night we celebrated with employees their pride in doing those great things.

If you didn't participate in the PRIDE program this year, a booklet of the essays will be mailed to you next week. If you did participate, you picked a booklet up at registration. If you would just like a copy, call WHA and we'll be happy to send one to you. Keep it handy. It is the perfect antidote. Open to any page and read about our employees' pride. It will help you appreciate the skill, compassion and dedication of the very special people who are caring for others in every community in Wisconsin.

"I encourage those people who want to 'make small differences' with great love to enter the health field . . ."

*Pam Wunderlin, Admitting Rep  
Southwest Health Center, Platteville*

"The chance to laugh or cry with a stranger, to be their support, to hold their hand, give them hope, or just to get a smile . . . there's nothing else like it."

*Shenandoah Greenwood, CNA  
Aurora BayCare Medical Center  
Green Bay*

"We touch people's lives in so many ways that sometimes we don't even realize it. I learned a long time ago that a warm smile and gentle touch are more powerful than any medicine."

*Jackie Schwemmer, LPN  
Fort HealthCare, Fort Atkinson*

"I'm not just running tests on a specimen but I'm running tests on someone's grandpa, father, brother or husband. This brings about a great pride in the work I do."

*Steve Heil, Medical Technologist  
Memorial Health Center, Medford*

"Today my journey in health care is far from done,  
Because growing in knowledge is part of the fun."

*Kelley Chase, RN, EMT  
Moundview Memorial Hospital,  
Friendship*

"There are days when I laugh and there are days when I go home and cry, but every day I am thankful for having the opportunity to make a difference in someone's life."

*Joan Pacetti, RN, BSN  
Children's Hospital of Wisconsin,  
Kenosha*