Hospital News salutes all nominees

Colette Parker, – McKenney Creek Hospice Residence BC
Colette has been a nurse for over 44 years and is currently working at McKenney Creek Hospice in Maple Ridge, BC. I have been a volunteer at the Hospice for 2 years. We have an altar where the names of people who have passed are written and there is a box of names where families can write something if they choose to. I have seen and heard Colette’s name come up again and again for being the greatest support during such a difficult time. She truly cares about each and every person she takes care of at the Hospice. Loving someone you love is one of the hardest things to deal with so those who have had the support of such a wonderful nurse have truly been blessed.

Kris Bayley – Uxbridge Cottage Hospital
Kris embodies all the qualities of a professional and caring nurse that we all aspire to reach. We work in a small rural ER dept. One night we received a call – ‘teenager VS A’. We had about 2 minutes to get ready for this patient. He had been in a terrible car accident not far from our ER doors. Our small ER team worked on him for over an hour using every resource available to us including a couple of ORNGE paramedics that were there to transport yet another accident victim. It wasn’t until well into this code when I was given his wallet to ID him that I found his next of kin was listed as one of our staff members, someone well known to us. When the deceased patient’s mother arrived, Kris was incredible. This is where you see what the true meaning of being a nurse really is. She demonstrated the perfect combination of caring, compassion and support during this unthinkably difficult time

Lauren Edwards – Runnymede Healthcare Centre
Lauren demonstrates commitment, dedication, compassion and leadership, whether it comes to her patients, colleagues or the public, and she has done this despite the use of only one functioning lung! Identified as “Mother” by staff, she embodies that role in the care that she provides in all her work. She has been a driving force for the Healthy Living Program, which combines the benefits of physical and mental health, through a collaboration of nursing skills with those of a recreational therapist as well as a dietitian and general practitioner to epitomize client-centred care. Beyond this, Lauren possesses a wealth of knowledge on Clozapine, which is why nurses and doctors alike approach her for clinical consultation. She also reaches out to external partners to acquire additional resources, which are especially necessary in a healthcare context of increasingly limited funding. Additionally, she participates on a number of projects for the benefit of patients and staff alike, including the Diabetic Education and Support Committee, Health and Safety Committee, while serving as the Ontario Nurses’ Association representative for the Mental Health Clinic.

Ray Lam – The Hospital for Sick Children
As a graduate student in the MSc Global Health program at McMaster University, students were presented with an opportunity to complete an internship in an area of their choice. I had always been passionate about infectious diseases but being new to Toronto I was feeling a bit lost as to where to turn to gain experience. I came across Ray’s name when searching for connections and after a few phone conversations he agreed to take me on as his intern for the summer. Ray went above and beyond my expectations and I feel a part of his team and a part of my new city. He never treated me as a student but rather would introduce me as a colleague. He constantly challenged me to think outside of the box, push beyond my limits and leap out of my comfort zone. He went above and beyond putting me in touch with several people in an effort to expand my network, offered me hours
of the 2014 Nursing Hero Awards

Kelly Freeman — St. Mary’s General Hospital
Kelly truly gives 150% percent of herself, night and day, for patients. This year she was one of our most outstanding nurses and was recognized as a hero. She is truly dedicated to her patients and works tirelessly to ensure they receive the best care possible. Her compassion and understanding make her a true hero.

Dorothy Martin — Chatham Kent Health Alliance
Dorothy approaches each day with enthusiasm and compassion. She is a leader amongst her peers and colleagues. On the Thanksgiving weekend, we had a new type 1 child diagnosed, and admitted to hospital on the Friday afternoon. The patient’s family had not received the diagnoses by the time our regular work day had completed, so Dorothy, very willingly offered to come back on the Saturday – to meet the family, and do an initial teach of insulin etc. Dorothy has always maintained that our initial contact with the Type 1’s is so important from the get go… Dorothy was also serving Thanksgiving to her family of 17 people that same day.

Nancy Timan — Providence Care, Kingston
I have had privilege of being mentored by Nancy entering into a field of nursing that was new to me. Geriatric Psychiatry. Nancy provided the softest landing for me with her compassion, understanding, attention to detail, excitement in teaching, love for the nursing profession and joy in mentoring in me. Nancy’s warmth, enthusiastic, empathetic and personable presence creates a space to learn from her great wealth of knowledge. She motivates her colleagues to learn more and resolves conflicts and other difficult situations with remarkable patience and admirable tact.

Aimee Esmejeda — Runnymede Healthcare Centre
In all our interactions with Aimee, she demonstrates exemplary performance that goes above and beyond her outlined nursing duties. Aimee has embraced and utilizes a rehabilitation philosophy with all her patient interactions, helping each individual to achieve their discharge goals. On numerous occasions, she takes the time to conduct and encourage therapy with patients. She is especially diligent with those who are historically difficult to engage. She is compassionate and has an excellent bedside manner which builds rapport and encourages patients to participate and interact with her.

Marcia Bryant — Hotel Dieu Hospital
Marcia is an outstanding nurse and co-worker every day. She is always happy, compassionate and friendly. Always goes the extra mile to make life easier for everyone she comes in contact with. Her smile and sense of humour can melt even the most unwilling and uncooperative.

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Franca Pellegrino
Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Centre
Leon Plukhovski
Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre
Cathy Porteous
Almonte General Hospital
Lorna Quail
Harrow Park Centre
Madge Reece (6)
Humber River Hospital
Pam Reese
Kelowna Mental Health and Substance Use
Eleanor Reyes
Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre
Estrella Reyes
Runnymede Healthcare Centre
Lois Robinson
Roche Valley Health System
Marielena Rutka
University Health Network
Toronto General
Natalie Sakin
Mount Sinai Hospital
Rich Schregardus
Markham Stouffville Hospital
Kathy Shaula
Trillium Health Partners
Icelav (Icy) Simpson-Weir
Runnymede Healthcare Centre
Elizabeth Angela Smith
Trillium Health Partners
Lee-Anne Stayner
University Health Network
Princess Margaret Hospital
Anne Stephens
Toronto Central Community Care Access Centre
Gina Stokes
Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre
Nancy Timan
Providence Care, Kingston
Donna Tomlinson
Runnymede Healthcare Centre
Gurjit Toor
University Health Network, Toronto Rehab
Nicholas Tsergas
Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre
Mary Tulk (2)
Interior Health
Pentiction Health Centre
Kate Uchendu (2)
University Health Network, Toronto General
Dragica Velmirimovic
Trillium Health Partners
Mary Wadsworth
Trillium Health Partners
Millicent Walters
Runnymede Healthcare Centre
Lijuan Yang
Runnymede Healthcare Centre
Landy Zhang
Harrow Park Centre, Vancouver
Barb Zita
Mount Sinai Hospital