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Health &
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Memorial Medical Center

Neillsville, Loyal, Greenwood

Care...at its best

EMPLOYEES HONORED FOR DEDICATION TO HEALTH CARE

Two Memorial Medical Center - Neillsville employees were recently honored for their dedication to healthcare.

The Rural Wisconsin Health Cooperative recently awarded their 2009 Rural Health Ambassador Award to Harriet Weaver, RN, at Memorial Medical Center- Neillsville.



The award recognizes health care employees who have gone above the call of duty in promoting their respective organizations, while making significant contributions to rural health. Nineteen individuals from across the state received awards this year. For her contributions in helping Memorial Medical Center grow relations with area Amish and Mennonite communities, leading cultural awareness in-services for employees, and for her ongoing delivery of extraordinary care to patients, Memorial Medical Center nominated Harriet Weaver for the 2009 Rural Health Ambassador Award.

Larry Clifford, RWHC staff, presented Harriet Weaver with the 2009 Rural Health Ambassador Award.

The Wisconsin Hospital Association (WHA) held its annual Wisconsin Health Care Employee Pride Program, where it honored 77 individuals. The program is designed to celebrate the health care workforce and recognize their "truly amazing" contributions to the health of their communities, according to WHA President Steve Brenton.



Employees submit an essay, describing what led them to choose an occupation in health, and how it has enriched their lives. Hundreds of health care employees submitted essays. A committee at each health care facility selected a winning essay, and Memorial Medical Center's 2009 winner was Flip Susa, CNA.

Flip Susa (left) received the 2009 WHA Pride Award. Supervisor, Lori Gregorich (right), attended the banquet in Susa's honor.

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Flip Susa's essay follows:

One day, someone asked me, "Why do you do what you do?" Here's my response:

Twenty five years ago, and 1,000 miles away from me, my mom had open heart surgery. When I went to be by her side, I could tell the difference between the people that took care of mom and genuinely liked doing what they were doing versus the ones that did what they did for the paycheck only. The good ones put a smile on mom's face. I decided then that I wanted to do for a career. When my boys were all in school, I would become a CNA!

For a decade, I worked at Memorial Medical Center with the elderly at the nursing home. Every resident was someone's family. To walk in the room with a smile and say, "Good morning!" and get a smile in return was the satisfaction I needed from my job. I enjoyed helping them with their activities of daily living (ADLs) and getting ready for the day.

Now, I'm back working at Memorial Medical Center's hospital. It's a challenge every day. I enjoy helping to get surgical patients up for the first time after surgery, and see them do better each time they get up, and then do well enough to go home. It's very rewarding. And the satisfaction I get when I see a patient and he says, "I hoped *you* would be working today." is overwhelming.

I plan to continue doing CNA work as long as I'm able – at least 20 more years of helping each and every person I can!!