

## **Mefford, Sadowski Tops**

Lynn Mefford, the director of nursing at The Heritage Center in Morristown, Tenn., has won Life Care's highest tribute to excellence in nursing. The Mary Denton Award, named for the resident receiving a rose from a nurse in the Life Care logo, was presented to Mefford Monday evening at the 2008 annual meeting of the company's directors of nursing.

Winner of the Company-Wide Director of Nursing of the Year honor was Cheryl Anne Sadowski, director of nursing at Life Care Center of Orlando, Fla.

Mefford has 33 years of service in long-term care. She "works to preserve residents' dignity by focusing on their mental, physical and spiritual well-being," said Mary Pfeifer, the Eastern Division vice president who nominated her. "She models Life Care's mission and values and instills in her associates a desire to follow her example. Her facility is known in the community for the longevity of its associates. She leads her facility to consistently high scores on state, Joint Commission, customer satisfaction and associate satisfaction surveys."

Sadowski "serves as the matriarch of her facility, acting as counselor, motivator, disciplinarian and a buffer for fellow associates," her nomination from Bob Sprague, Southeast Division vice president, said. "She coordinates with nursing managers and has maintained zero agency usage for six years, promising she will walk the floor before an agency is called. She has created a sense of family at the facility between associates and residents and their family members. The bond is so strong that many family members have stayed with the facility as volunteers after their loved one has passed away."

Division Director of Nursing of the Year awards went to Wanda Hall, Life Care Center of Lawrenceville, Ga., Eastern Division; Lana Miller, Life Care Center of LaGrange, Ind., Heartland Division; Jennifer Scott, Valley View Villa, Fort Morgan, Colo., Mountain States Division; Nancy LaRock, Life Care Center of Nashoba Valley, Littleton, Mass., Northeast Division; Jodi Stewart, Cascade Park Care Center, Vancouver, Wash., Northwest Division; Sondra Bussell, Life Care Center of Citrus County, Lecanto, Fla., Southeast Division; and Sandra Pougded, Life Care Center of Vista, Calif., Southwest Division.

Deficiency-free Surveys in Nursing awards were won by Life Care Center of Lawrenceville, Ga., Wanda Hall; Life Care Center of Sparta, Tenn., Stacey Demps; Wooldridge Place Nursing Center, Corpus Christi, Texas, Rena Casanova; Life Care Center of La Center, Ky., Tena Render, RDCS, accepting; Life Care Center of Seneca, Kan., Laura Noland; The Lane House, Crawfordsville, Ind., Elizabeth Buchanan; Life Care Center of Aurora, Colo., Lynn Moffitt; Life Care Center of Medina, Ohio, Robert Albu; Life Care Center of New

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Market, Va., Mindee Cunningham; and The Oakridge Home, Westlake, Ohio, Vicki Sprague.

Life Care also recognized initial and triennial accreditations by The Joint Commission during the past year.

We are proud of our nurses, and we congratulate this year's winners.

--Beecher Hunter