

Mascarenas Wins Top Award

Chrissy Mascarenas, director of nursing at Life Care Center of Pueblo, Colo., has been named the winner of the 2009 Mary Denton Award, the highest honor bestowed upon a nurse by Life Care Centers of America. It is named for Our Lady of the Rose, the resident portrayed in Life Care's logo. The presentation was made during the 2009 annual meeting of the company's directors of nurses, which concluded Wednesday. The event was held at the Gaylord Opryland Resort in Nashville, Tenn.



Ellen Snyder, director of nursing at Life Care Center of Kirkland, Wash., received the Company-Wide Director of Nursing Award for 2009.

The awards were announced by President Beecher Hunter, and presented by Chairman Forrest L. Preston, Chief Operating Officer Cathy Murray and Senior Vice President of Clinical Services Dee McCarthy.

A DON at Life Care Center of Pueblo since 1997, Mascarenas has led her facility to two deficiency-free state surveys, and was instrumental in its achievement of accreditation by The Joint Commission. Her winning nomination points out that she "makes herself available at all times to associates, the residents and their family members to ensure their questions are answered and their needs are met. She displays exceptional knowledge of the nursing field and its regulations. She goes out of her way to build relationships with the residents and their family members, associates, local health care professionals and other community members."

Snyder has directed Life Care Center of Kirkland to a deficiency-free survey in 2008 and a nursing deficiency-free survey in 2007. Her nomination states that she "is actively involved with local schools of nursing and with state and national nursing organizations. She encourages her nursing staff and other associates with cards, flowers and awards for doing their jobs well. She takes on projects beyond her normal duties, including answering call lights, cooking meals for associate appreciation and remodeling the facility's public restrooms."

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Director of Nursing of the Year awards went to:

- Eastern Division: Stacey Demps, Life Care Center of Sparta, Tenn.
- Heartland Division: Michelle Yosick, Life Care Center of Elkhorn, Neb.
- Mountain States Division: LaPalma Dobler, Life Care Center of Longmont, Colo.
- Northeast Division: Robert Albu, Life Care Center of Medina, Ohio.
- Northwest Division: Trina Daves, Life Care Center of Kennewick, Wash.
- Southeast Division: Gina Moorman, Life Care Center of Altamonte Springs, Fla.
- Southwest Division: Ryan Mann, Life Care Center of Reno, Nev.

Deficiency-free surveys since the 2008 annual meeting were:

- Life Care Center of Banner Elk, N.C., Elizabeth Hayes, DON.
- Life Care Center of Hendersonville, N.C., Tony Sherrill, DON.
- Life Care Center of Sparta, Tenn., Stacey Demps, DON.
- Life Care Center of Plano, Texas, Jocelyn “Joy” Biggs, DON.
- Garden Terrace Alzheimer’s Center of Excellence in Fort Worth, Texas [accepted by Denise Patterson, RDCS].
- Garden Terrace Alzheimer’s Center of Excellence in Overland Park, Kan., Deronda Rinas, DON.
- Laurel Creek Health Care Center in Manchester, Ky., Tracy Smith, DON.
- Life Care Center of Elkhorn, Neb., Michelle Yosick, DON.
- Life Care Center of La Center, Ky., Tana Cooper, DON.
- Life Care Center of LaGrange, Ind., Lana Miller, DON.
- Parkview Care Center in Evansville, Ind., Terry Jonas, DON.
- Life Care Center of Medina, Ohio, Robert Albu, DON.
- Hickory House Nursing Home in Honey Brook, Penn., Pat Dombrowski, DON.
- Evergreen House Health Care in East Providence, R.I., Judith “Judi” Arredondo, DON.
- The Oaks Nursing Center in New Bedford, Mass., Diane Leclair, DON.
- Life Care Center of Kirkland, Wash., Ellen Snyder, DON.
- Life Care Center of Post Falls, Idaho, Lorri Tretter, DON.
- Life Care Center of Richland, Wash. [accepted by Betty Ihrig, RDCS].

Life Care Center of Pensacola, Fla., received its initial accreditation by The Joint Commission. Shawna Burkart is the DON.

We congratulate all of our winners for outstanding performances. They represent the thousands of caregiving associates who daily commit their skills and share their compassion to the benefit of our residents.

– Beecher Hunter