

## Perry Top Winner

Kelly Perry, the director of nursing at Alameda Oaks Nursing Center in Corpus Christi, Texas, was presented the Mary Denton Award at the annual meeting of Life Care's directors of nursing Monday night. Named for the resident in a wheelchair receiving a rose from a nurse, depicted in the Life Care logo, it is the highest award a nurse in the company can receive. The crystal rose symbolizing the honor was handed to her by Tony Oglesby, chief executive officer; Don Giardina, president; Cathy Murray, chief operating officer; Susie Hutchings, outgoing senior vice president of clinical services; and Mike Carson, who is succeeding Hutchings in that position.

Among the many accolades, Perry was described by one resident's family member as "compassionate, attentive and exceptional," and by a fellow associate as "truly a selfless servant." When her name was called as the winner, she received an instant standing ovation from the audience gathered in Cleveland for the 15<sup>th</sup> annual meeting of directors of nursing.

Other winners included Lois Boggs, Life Care Center of Jefferson City, Tennessee, company-wide director of nursing of the year; and divisional directors of nursing of the year: Bruce Matthews, Life Care Center of Winter Haven, Florida, Eastern; Bonni Altenhofen, Life Care Center of Wichita, Kansas, Heartland; Cyndy Rankin, Life Care Center of Cheyenne, Wyoming, Mountain States; Patricia Samprakos, Life Care Center of Stoneham, Massachusetts, Northeast; Karen Jacobson, Life Care Center of Skagit Valley, Sedro Woolley, Washington, Northwest; and Melesa Ashline, Life Care Center of Sierra Vista, Arizona, Southwest.

Also honored were facilities with deficiency-free and nursing deficiency-free surveys: Life Care Center of New Market, Virginia, Joan Wolf; Life Care Center of Orange Park, Florida, Shonna Yarbrough; Mayfair Subacute and Rehabilitation Center in Columbus, Ohio, Jennifer Bidka; Parkview Care Center in Evansville, Indiana, Terry Jonas; Evergreen Nursing Home in Alamosa, Colorado, Kim Chacon; Garden Terrace Alzheimer's Center of Excellence in Salt Lake City, Utah, Rose Gibbs; The Westchester House in Chesterfield, Missouri, Bonnie Polster; Cascade Park Care Center in Vancouver, Washington, Jodi Stewart; Garden Terrace at Overland Park, Kansas, Deronda Rinas; Alameda Oaks Nursing Center in Corpus Christi, Texas, Kelly Perry; Garden Terrace Alzheimer's Center of Excellence in Fort Worth, Texas, Joanna Ritchey; and Life Care Center of New Port Richey, Kerri Derren.

Congratulations to all of our winners – and to the teams they lead. We're proud of you.

--Beecher Hunter