

Wallace Wins Top Award

She's a 20-year veteran of Life Care Centers of America, and she helped guide Bart Walker, our senior vice president of Operations, in the first building where he was appointed as executive director after completing his administrator-in-training role.

"She" is Judy Wallace, the director of nursing at Life Care Center of Bruceton-Hollow Rock in Bruceton, Tenn. And she was named the winner of the Mary Denton Award, the highest honor that can be bestowed on a Life Care nurse, during the banquet Monday evening at the annual DON meeting. Wallace thusly joins a prestigious club of winners of this award since its inception in 1994.

Also receiving a top honor was Nancy Magnuson, director of nursing at Life Care Center of Sarasota, Fla., who was chosen as the Company-Wide Director of Nursing for 2012.

An associate of Life Care since Nov. 4, 1991, Wallace leads the nursing team at the facility to consistently good annual inspections. She treats all members of her department fairly, with no favorites, and helps new staff members grow, while affirming those already excelling. She promotes health awareness in the community and leads by example as she runs in races for various charities.

Wallace develops a team with a level of compassion and excellence that draws patients to the facility from as far away as Nashville and Memphis.

A surprise guest was her supervisor, Ben Stiefel, executive director of Life Care Center of Bruceton-Hollow Rock, who praised Wallace's professional skills and her heart for service.

Magnuson looks for opportunities to make the jobs of her nurses easier. She is known for encouraging associates to have fun and enjoy their jobs. Magnuson changed the two Medicare units from mainly LPNs to primarily RNs to meet the needs of higher-acuity patients. She has consistently reduced restraint usage in her facility each year for the past four years.

In a creative action, she developed an emergency response team, coordinating the training of 24 people from all departments. She maintains a Gratitude Board, where associates are encouraged to show their appreciation to other associates with thank-you notes.

[Click here for a complete list of winners from last night's DON Awards Banquet.](#)

We congratulate all of our honorees, who represent the extraordinary work being done every day in all of Life Care's centers. We're proud you help lead the Life Care family.

– Beecher Hunter