



CARING COUNTS

VOLUNTEERS OF THE YEAR AWARDS

In March, 2012, the Mississippi Health Care Association sent information to member nursing homes for nominations to recognize volunteers in the categories of adult, young adult, and group. This year nominations were received for adult volunteers. The criteria was developed by the American Health Care Association. Winners in each volunteer category are submitted to the American

Health Care Association for consideration as the national volunteer of the year.

To be eligible for consideration as an **adult volunteer**, the nominee must be an individual 20 years of age or older who has volunteered in a Mississippi Health Care Association member facility for at least one year before being nominated for the award.

CRITERIA FOR ADULT VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR ARE:

- Ability to help residents realize their potential;
- Overall impact on residents;
- Involvement in activities;
- Leadership role in initiating programs for residents;
- Personal growth from being a volunteer; and
- Length and frequency of service.

ADULT VOLUNTEER AWARDS

ADULT VOLUNTEERS OF THE YEAR

This year there is a tie for **ADULT VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR**. They are **CAROLYN ELLIS** who volunteers at **WILLOW CREEK RETIREMENT CENTER** in Byram, and **CECIL COLEMAN**, who volunteers at **LIBERTY HEALTH AND REHAB OF INDIANOLA**.

CAROLYN ELLIS has volunteered at Willow Creek for more than 11 years. She began volunteering when her mother was admitted to the facility and continues to volunteer because she promised the residents she would not desert them after the death of her mother. In addition to getting volunteers and prizes for Tuesday bingo, Ms. Ellis organizes residents to participate in an annual Easter Cantata which the residents perform for their families and facility staff. She plans fishing trips for the residents. It is important to Ms. Ellis that the residents be as independent as possible. She reinforces this by encouraging bingo winners to decide which prize they want. On fishing trips, she has the residents select their spot for fishing. Ms. Ellis has recruited almost all of the 30 or so volunteers who come into Willow Creek.



CECIL COLEMAN has been a volunteer at Liberty Health and Rehab for 27 years. Although he is 80 years of age, Mr. Coleman's spirit is that of a young man. Residents and staff await his arrival each Friday. He brightens their day and entertains them with songs like "I'll Fly Away" and "Achy Breaky Heart". While singing, Mr. Coleman interacts with the residents and gets them involved in singing and dancing. Mr. Coleman is active and involved in the life of the community and uses his community involvement to encourage others to volunteer at Liberty Health & Rehab. He has inspired family members of residents to become more involved with all of the residents. As a result, family members sponsor bingo once a month. The words used to describe Mr. Coleman are: dedication, inspiration, and motivation for all - the residents, family members and staff.



HONORABLE MENTION VOLUNTEER

The **HONORABLE MENTION VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR** is **JEFF RICHARD**. He volunteers at **SINGING RIVER REHABILITATION AND NURSING CENTER** in Moss Point. Mr. Richard has volunteered for 13 years and spends several hours a week at the facility. He helped with a fundraiser to re-do the activity room and to buy a large screen TV for the residents to enjoy in that room. He is a shining star who always has a smile on his face, and is very caring and compassionate about the residents and the staff. When Mr. Richards is in the facility, he encourages residents to participate in the activities and if residents do not participate, he takes the time to visit each one to let them know how much they were missed.



The volunteers recognized are a few of the many volunteers in nursing homes throughout the state. The Mississippi Health Care Association appreciates the time that volunteers spend in our nursing homes to brighten the day of the residents and to assist staff. We thank all of the many volunteers for their priceless gift of time.

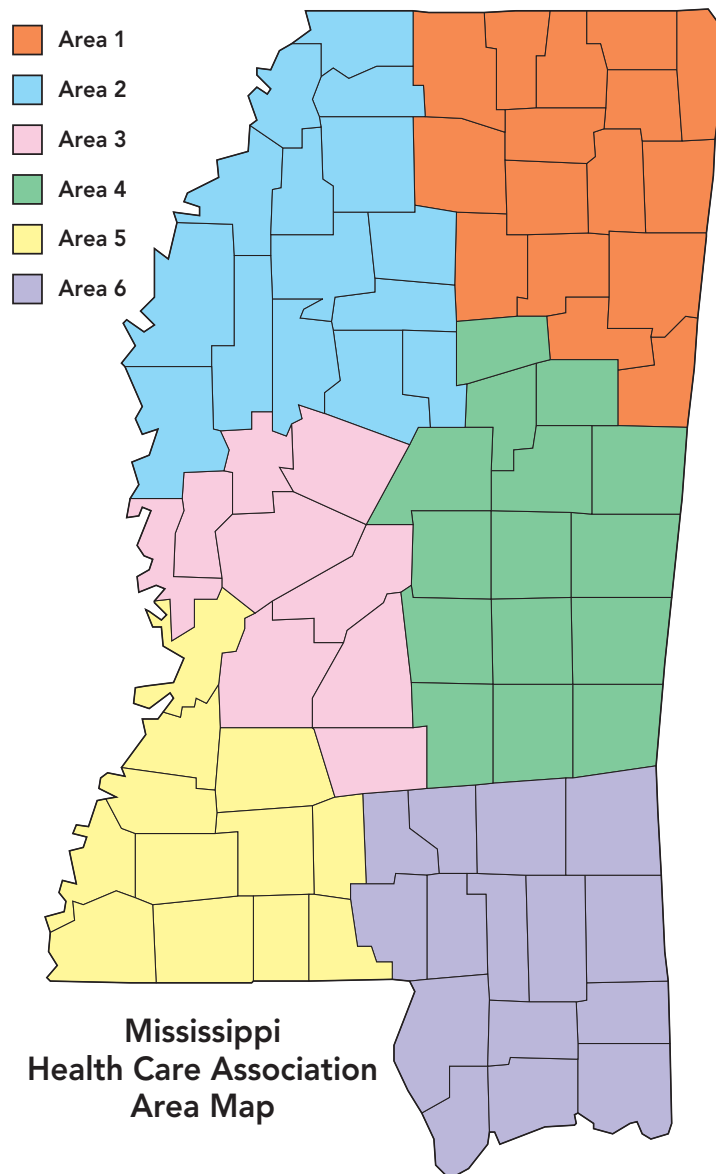
CAREGIVER AWARDS

Nominations for the Mississippi Health Care Association Caregiver Award are submitted by residents and/or family members. This award recognizes employees who:

- Go above and beyond the regular call of duty
- Substantially enhance the quality of life for residents
- Do unique things that are above and beyond the job

From the nominations received for caregivers from the 6 areas of MHCA in the state, one is selected as the statewide, Overall Caregiver of the Year.

The words used for recognizing these award winners come directly from the information given by residents and family members in making the nominations. Their words, being expressed in describing the winners, are a fitting and touching tribute to the powerful impact these caregivers are having on the lives of so many people in our state.



CAREGIVER AWARDS • AREA 1

AREA 1 • LOCATED IN NORTHEAST MISSISSIPPI



FIRST PLACE

The **CAREGIVER OF THE YEAR IN AREA 1** is **MYRA TEDFORD**. Ms. Tedford has been a CNA at Trinity Healthcare in Columbus for 4 years. She is knowledgeable about her job and shows genuine care when interacting with residents. Ms. Tedford is gentle and loving as she cares for residents with her kind and loving spirit. She always tries to care for the residents in a way that is pleasing to family members.



AREA 2 • LOCATED IN NORTHWEST MISSISSIPPI

SECOND PLACE

The **2ND PLACE CAREGIVER IN AREA 2** is **MARIE MAYS**, who is a CNA at Shelby Nursing and Rehabilitation Center. Ms. Mays makes sure the residents in her care have what they need, which may include as much as clothes for some and something as little as gum for others. Her goal is to make sure her residents are happy. She is on time for work and willing to work other shifts if she is needed.



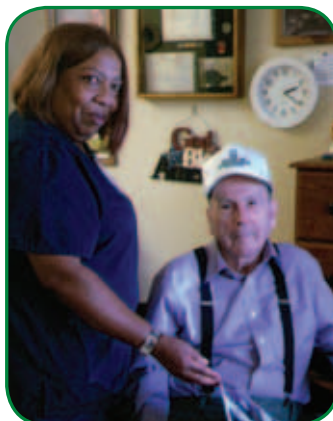
FIRST PLACE

The **1ST PLACE CAREGIVER IN AREA 2** is **GLARA MARTIN**. Ms. Martin is a licensed practical nurse at Golden Age in Greenwood. She began working at Golden Age 34 years ago as a CNA and went back to school to get her LPN degree. Ms. Martin does all she can to make sure that residents needs are met even if it is not in her job description. Residents and family members see her as a cheerleader, coach, trusted companion, friend and an angel to many. Ms. Martin is described as genuine and caring from the heart and she makes sure that her actions show this.

AREA 3 • LOCATED IN WEST CENTRAL MISSISSIPPI

THIRD PLACE

Recognized as the **3RD PLACE CAREGIVER OF THE YEAR IN AREA 3** is **SHEILA AIKERSON**. Ms. Aikerson has been a CNA at Willow Creek Retirement Center in Byram for 12 years. She goes beyond the call of duty to make the residents feel special and has a smile on her face when assisting residents. Ms. Aikerson tries to teach the residents easier ways to do things, such as getting dressed while in a wheelchair. She never complains and is always cheerful with a smile on her face.

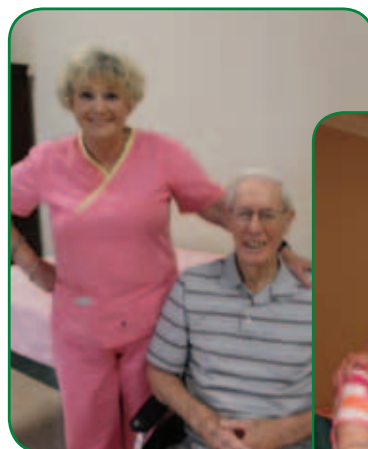


SECOND PLACE

Receiving the **2ND PLACE CAREGIVER AWARD FROM AREA 3** is **MARY ROBINSON**, who is a CNA at Lakeland Nursing & Rehabilitation Center in Jackson. Ms. Robinson always has a smile on her face and makes each resident feel special. She asks each resident in her care as well as family members if there is anything else she can do for them. Ms. Robinson is always kind and ready to help anybody.

FIRST PLACE

The **1ST PLACE CAREGIVER IN AREA 3** is **GLENDA FOWLER**. Ms. Fowler is currently the Recreation Director at Lakeland Nursing and Rehabilitation Center where she has worked for 20 years. Ms. Fowler is a ray of sunshine to the residents at Lakeland and described as a cross between Scarlett from “Gone with the Wind” and Mother Theresa. Although seeming to always be running and doing many things at once, Ms. Fowler always seems to manage and have everything under control.



CAREGIVER AWARDS • AREA 4

AREA 4 • LOCATED IN EAST CENTRAL MISSISSIPPI

THIRD PLACE

The **3RD PLACE CAREGIVER IN AREA 4** is **SHELLY BELK**. Although Ms. Belk has only been a CNA at J. G. Alexander Nursing Center in Union for a short time, she is special to the residents because of her care and love for them. Ms. Belk always has a pleasant disposition and never minds doing anything for the residents or helping other staff. She makes sure that residents have the things they need. Ms. Smith also has been in the US Army Reserve for 6 years. She is a Specialist MOS-88M Transportation Operator. She was deployed to Camp Taji in Iraq from 2008 – 2009.



SECOND PLACE

The **2ND PLACE CAREGIVER IN AREA 4** is **TYESHIA SMITH**, who is a CNA at Mississippi Care Center of Morton. Ms. Smith, who has been a CNA for 3 years, sets high standards for herself and other CNAs. She makes sure that the residents in her care look clean and that the women have on make-up and jewelry. Family members rest easy knowing that Ms. Smith is caring for their loved ones.

FIRST PLACE

The **1ST PLACE CAREGIVER IN AREA 4** is **BARRY GRAHAM**. Mr. Graham is a licensed practical nurse in restorative care at Bedford Care Center of Newton. He has been there for more than 20 years. Mr. Graham responds to each resident in a special way with kindness and courtesy. He has a genuine interest in each resident as well as their families. Mr. Graham is concerned about the well-being of the residents and wants them to do their best. Also Mr. Graham does seminars at the facility to share his antiques and collectibles with residents and others.



AREA 5 • LOCATED IN SOUTHWEST MISSISSIPPI



THIRD PLACE

The **3RD PLACE CAREGIVER AWARD IN AREA 5** is **KRYSTAL HAYDEN** who has been the assistant activities director at Liberty Community Living Center for more than 11 years. No matter what is occurring Ms. Hayden always has a smile on her face when taking care of residents. She treats the residents as though they are members of her family. Some people just show up for work because they get paid, but working is more than this for Ms. Hayden as she enjoys her residents and her job.

SECOND PLACE

The **2ND PLACE CAREGIVER OF THE YEAR AWARD IN AREA 5** is **TALITA ROBERTS**. Ms. Roberts, who is in Social Services and Admissions, has been at Billdora Senior Care in Tylertown for 5 years. She is a very caring person who goes beyond the call of duty to be sure that residents' needs are met. Ms. Roberts tries to make sure that roommates are compatible with each other. She makes daily rounds to talk with the residents and most of all she shows kindness and respect to each resident.



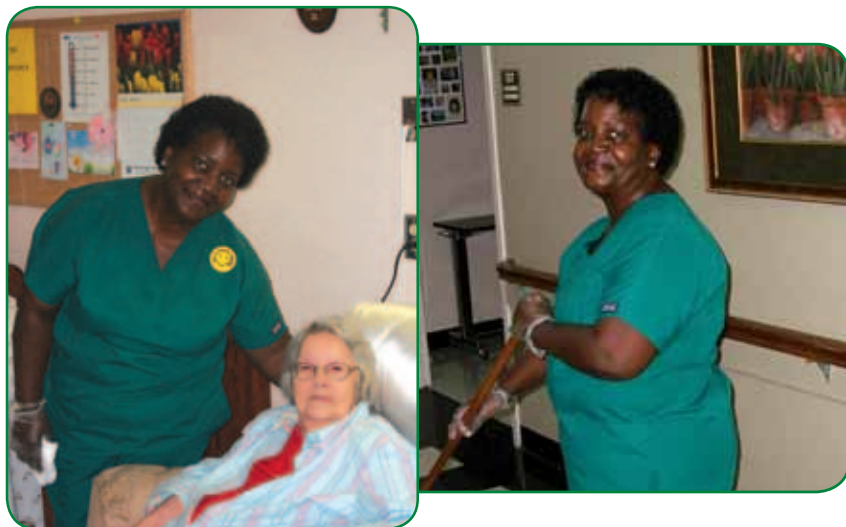
FIRST PLACE

The **1ST PLACE CAREGIVER IN AREA 5** is **CHARLENE WILKERSON**. Ms. Wilkerson has been a licensed practical nurse at Liberty Community Living Center for 7 years. As Ms. Wilkerson goes into residents' rooms, she takes time to talk with them and listen to them. She keeps family members informed about their resident. Ms. Wilkerson is never too busy to check on a resident when a family member expresses concern about how the resident is doing. She talks with the CNAs to help them understand what is going on with residents and why the resident may be acting a certain way. There is an attitude of caring from Ms. Wilkerson.

AREA 6 • LOCATED IN SOUTHEAST MISSISSIPPI

THIRD PLACE

The **3RD PLACE CAREGIVER OF THE YEAR IN AREA 6** is **VINETTA MAGEE**. Ms. Magee is in housekeeping at The Myrtles Nursing Center in Columbia and has been there for 4 years. She is considerate, friendly, caring and always does a good job. Although she comes into the rooms to clean them, she always asks the residents if there is anything she can do to help them. Ms. Magee is always willing to teach and help others in housekeeping with how to do their jobs and sets a good example for everyone in the facility.



SECOND PLACE

The **2ND PLACE CAREGIVER OF THE YEAR AWARD IN AREA 6** is **ROXANN DAVIDSON**, who has worked at The Boyington in Gulfport for 7 years. For 5 years she was in admissions before becoming the assistant administrator. As both Admissions Director and Assistant Administrator, Ms. Davidson believes that her work is her mission. Residents feel blessed by knowing her. She considers the residents' problems her problems and works to make things better for them. Ms. Davidson can be found in the facility almost every day including weekends and holidays and is always checking on the residents.



FIRST PLACE

The **1ST PLACE CAREGIVER IN AREA 6** is **HATTIE O'MEARA**, who has been a CNA at Covenant Health and Rehab of Picayune for 5 years. Ms. O'Meara always has a smile on her face and seems to know what residents in her care need before the residents know they need it. She goes out of her way to get things for residents. Ms. O'Meara has an ability to make residents laugh and feel loved. She also has encouraging words for residents. Her kindness and caring is an example for the other CNAs and other staff at the facility.



OVERALL CAREGIVER OF THE YEAR AWARD

HATTIE O'MEARA is the **OVERALL CAREGIVER OF THE YEAR**. She is a CNA at Covenant Health and Rehab of Picayune. Ms. O'Meara is described as having a unique way of caring for residents, having a constant smile that is genuine, and having a bubbly laugh that is contagious. She seems to have endless energy. Ms. O'Meara is always in a good mood and is very helpful. She makes the residents feel special and has a great attitude that lifts residents' spirits. She is always ready to help a resident. Ms. O'Meara is truly a caring and giving person that anyone would want to have looking after a loved one. She not only sets a good example for other employees but for all those around her. Ms. O'Meara chooses to see the good in life and spreads that optimistic enthusiasm to all those around her. She is truly an angel and a blessing to residents and family members.



The Mississippi Health Care Association realizes that these award winners represent only a few of the hundreds of dedicated caregiver staff in our nursing homes. We thank all of the many caregivers throughout the state for the outstanding care provided to our residents.

ABOUT THE MISSISSIPPI HEALTH CARE ASSOCIATION

With more than 200 members, the Mississippi Health Care Association (MHCA) is Mississippi's oldest and largest association of nursing homes, personal care homes, and other long-term care facilities.

Established as a trade association in 1953, MHCA is the state affiliate of the American Health Care Association, which allows our association to participate in national health care events and forums. The MHCA provides its members with educational programs, legislative services, and government services.

The MHCA membership includes freestanding nursing homes as well as, nursing homes in a hospital-based setting, facilities for persons with intellectual and other developmental disabilities and personal care/assisted living facilities. Member facilities provide care to such diverse groups as the frail elderly, the mentally disabled, veterans groups, as well as, residential and personal care to residents requiring only assistance in a minimum number of activities of daily living.

MHCA member nursing homes operate under strict Medicaid and Medicare regulations mandated by the federal government. The Mississippi State Department of Health (MSDH) licenses all MHCA

members. The MSDH Division of Health Facilities Licensure and Certification certifies member nursing homes for participation in the Medicaid and Medicare programs. MHCA member nursing homes are regulated by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), Washington D.C.

The MHCA membership provides care to approximately 16,000 patients and residents annually in our state. In addition, our members provide employment to approximately 20,000 Mississippians in various capacities.

MHCA also has a Foundation that helps enhance the quality of life for nursing home residents. The MHC Foundation helps bridge the gap between the quality of care provided in nursing home facilities and those special emotional and physical needs not covered by insurance policies, Medicare, Medicaid, even family members. The MHC Foundation organizes special outings and events to fulfill life-long dreams of nursing home residents. We also award educational scholarships to long-term health care staff members.

For more information about MHCA, our website is a great resource of information and can be viewed at www.mshca.com.



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