

2019 Caregiver Awards **CARING COUNTS**



MHCA
Mississippi Health Care Association
Leading the way in long-term care



Caregiver Awards

Caregivers in long-term care communities throughout the state dedicate their lives to caring for those who live in long-term care communities. For this reason, the Mississippi Health Care Association takes great pleasure in recognizing and honoring these Caregivers in the categories of Activity Professional, Social Worker/Social Worker Designee, Certified Nursing Assistant, Nurse, Director of Nursing and Nursing Home Administrator at an annual awards banquet each year. Each category has specific nominating criteria and nominations are received from facility staff, residents, and residents' family members.

The Caregivers recognized during the annual awards banquet epitomize what caregiving is all about. Each and every day, they care for others with patience, love and kindness. With a loving spirit, a service heart and kind dedication they impact and improve the lives of individuals living in long-term care communities.

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2019 *Caregiver Award Winners*



CONGRATULATIONS *to the Mississippi Health Care Association Caregiver Award Winners!*

On August 19, 2019, the Mississippi Health Care Association hosted a luncheon at Table 100 to recognize and honor our caregiver winners. The day included a special message of thanks to caregivers by Barbara Speedling. Ms Speedling is an inspirational and nationally recognized speaker and author as well as a quality of

life specialist. She has dedicated her life to the creation of meaningful, satisfying lives for all those who rely on someone else for their care. Her experiences have provided her with a vast understanding of the caregiver role and as such was able to provide truly inspiring words of praise and thanks to our caregiver winners.

2019

Caregiver Awards

Activity Professional



Our FIRST PLACE winner has forty years of service to her residents and her facility. She has dedicated her life to the facility and the well-being of the residents who live there. She encourages all staff and volunteers to participate in bringing joy to the residents. She is a leader in getting residents involved in community projects giving them a feeling of belonging, freedom and quality of life. Her goal is to improve the quality of life for the residents she serves. It is said by her co-workers that she has a smile and a kind word for everyone she meets. Congratulations to our first place winner, MAXINE BUIE of MEADVILLE CONVALESCENT HOME.



Our SECOND PLACE winner is known for having an “extraordinary” relationship with the residents. She spends a great deal of time getting to know the resident and the resident’s interest. She strives daily to improve the quality of life for her residents by personalizing activities to meet their needs and interest. It is said by her co-workers that she finds a way to celebrate life every day at her facility. Her co-workers say she loves her job and that she is appreciated very much. Congratulations to our second place winner, ELICIA ANDERSON WILLIAMS of HIGHLAND HOME in Ridgeland.



Our THIRD PLACE winner was nominated by a co-worker who stated that this individual demonstrates new and exciting ideas for residents from inviting the Mississippi Wild Life and Fisheries to bring in a live petting zoo to developing display boards for residents’ art work and activities. Her coworker noted that she responds to each resident individually meeting them “where they are” in order to provide the best care and approach for them. Congratulations to third place winner, LAURIE McGEE of SHARKEY ISSAQUENA NURSING HOME in Rolling Fork.

2019

Caregiver Awards

Social Worker/Social Worker Designee

The Award for FIRST PLACE goes to an individual who is described by a family member as someone who has a determination to always understand and be open minded. Another family member, described her as being “super wonderful” to her mom. She is described as wearing a friendly, compassionate and welcoming smile and always treating everyone as a special person. It is said she “does it all” and goes “above and beyond” to help anyone whether that is a family member, resident or staff. Many family members noted the support she provides them and the resident, giving them great comfort and peace of mind. Congratulations to our First Place Winner, ANITA HARDIN of RIVER PLACE NURSING CENTER in Amory.



The SECOND PLACE winner has thirty years of service in her facility. She is described by her Administrator as a true resident advocate with the end goal being to improve the resident experience. She is always thinking of the resident. For example, she visited a resident in the hospital on Father's Day because his family could not be there. It is said that she sees needs and concerns from the resident's perspective, sharing these with the care team so the resident or the resident's family is served in the best way possible. Congratulations to our second place winner LINDA WRIGHT of BALDWIN NURSING FACILITY.



The THIRD PLACE winner is described as always willing to listen and try to help her residents. She works to raise funds to purchase items for residents that they otherwise would not be able to have. Her co-workers note that she is a great educator to staff regarding residents' rights and how to treat residents but most importantly she is loved by all of her residents. Congratulations to third place winner, ANGIE BURTON of TIPPAH COUNTY NURSING HOME in Ripley.



2019

Caregiver Awards

Certified Nursing Assistant



The FIRST PLACE Award is unusual this year because it goes to not one but two individuals who have 24 and 26 years of service at their facility. They are described as being faithful caregivers who have become “family” to those they serve. They take the time to truly get to know the resident and their family and have taken on the role of family to residents who have none. These two caregivers met at work, dated, married and raised their children all while being caregivers to the residents of this facility. They are always professional, consistent and great mentors for new employees. Congratulations to our FIRST PLACE winners CECIL and DAISY CHANDLER of DIVERSICARE OF AMORY.



Our SECOND PLACE winner has seventeen years as a caregiver. She is described by one of her residents as having a positive attitude and being a caring, loving and protective person who sets an excellent example for others. She is said to “brighten” the residents’ day. Her co-workers describe her as “one special person” who cares for the residents with a million dollar attitude and smile. She is often seen laughing, dancing, talking and holding the hands of her residents. It is said she has a special rapport with her residents. Congratulations to JOANN SALAZAR of BOLIVAR MEDICAL CENTER LONG TERM CARE as our SECOND PLACE winner.



Our THIRD PLACE winner has thirty eight years of service. The Resident Council of her facility described her as always positive and dedicated to making sure they have what they need. She is always willing to teach a co-worker how to do something the right way. She is also always willing to help any co-worker or family member when called upon. Congratulations to our THIRD PLACE Winner DEBRA ATLAS of BRIAR HILL NURSING & REHABILITATION CENTER in Florence.

2019 *Caregiver Awards* *Nurse*

Our FIRST PLACE winner received her nomination from one of her residents who stated she is professional, always pleasant and always willing to help and listen. She is noted to take care of problems as soon as they arise and does so while always smiling and being cheerful. Her resident describes her also as always being consistent and faithful in her duties and most importantly, showing that she cares for each and every resident. Congratulations to our FIRST PLACE winner PAMELA MORGAN of HERITAGE HOUSE in Vicksburg.



Our SECOND PLACE winner received her nomination from a family member. This family member describes her as having a super attitude toward every person, resident, co-worker and visitor with whom she comes in contact. She is able to turn any situation around with respect, empathy and compassion. She is sensitive to residents' needs and makes a huge difference every day in the lives of her residents. Congratulations to our SECOND PLACE winner TARA LEECH of RIVER PLACE NURSING CENTER in Amory.



Our THIRD PLACE winner has been a caregiver for forty years. It is said of her that her residents are always her priority and she is missed by her residents when she is not there. She takes initiative in identifying needs of residents and making sure they are met. For example, she noted residents who were receiving therapy early in the morning needed coffee before the therapy. She made this happen. She is a great mentor to other caregivers but most importantly she always takes her time with her residents, making them feel important. Congratulation goes to KATIE SHEPHERD of SENATOBIA HEALTHCARE & REHABILITATION CENTER our THIRD PLACE winner.



2019

Caregiver Awards

Director of Nursing



Our FIRST PLACE winner has fourteen years of long-term care service. She is known as the Director of Nursing who does not require anything of anyone that she is not willing to do herself. She is a roll up your sleeves and get things done person. Her door is always open to staff and residents. She believes “her career is her calling.” It is not unusual to have the family members of residents express how grateful they are that their loved one has a Director of Nursing who expresses so much care and kindness during their stay. Congratulations to our FIRST PLACE winner KAMISHA FAULKNER of GREAT OAKS REHABILITATION & HEALTHCARE CENTER of Byhalia.



Our SECOND PLACE winner is said to always be up for a challenge and encourages other nurses to do their best. She handles resident and family concerns quickly and efficiently. She is upbeat and embraces the changes that occur on a daily basis in long-term care. She is always willing to help others even when she has a million things she needs to do. She engages and encourages residents and staff in random and positive ways whether with a small gift or a kind word. Congratulations to our SECOND PLACE winner KAYSIE BARNES of DIVERSICARE of RIPLEY.



The THIRD PLACE winner in the category of Director of Nursing has been a nurse for 25 years in long-term care. She is described as understanding that long-term care is not about us but about the precious lives we serve. She is constantly trying to educate herself and try new things to improve the lives of her residents. She has a passion for her work and her co-workers, residents and families all have unmatched confidence in her. Congratulations to our THIRD PLACE SHELIA COOPER of MAGNOLIA SENIOR CARE in Jackson.

2019

Caregiver Awards

Nursing Home Administrator

Our FIRST PLACE winner in the category of Nursing Home Administrator is described as honest and helpful, always checking on residents and staff. She is also known as a motivated person who encourages her staff to be better people. As a result, the staff and residents all benefit from her spirit and the example she sets for everyone. Congratulations to NICOLE BULLOCK of DIVERSICARE of RIPLEY.



Our SECOND PLACE winner has 15 years of service as an Administrator. She is known for keeping the operation running so everything is going well and all needs are met. She is known for giving good advice and always putting the staff and residents first. Congratulations to our second place winner, LISHA WOODARD of CARE CENTER of ABERDEEN.



The THIRD PLACE winner is described as a hands-on administrator. She works closely to ensure all residents, staff and families are completely satisfied. It doesn't matter the need, or time of day, she always tackles every project head-on with an excellent attitude. Congratulations to our THIRD PLACE winner, DEBBIE FERGUSON of TREND HEALTH and REHAB in Carthage.



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/assisted living 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, individuals with intellectual disabilities, veteran 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 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, or 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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