



NEWS

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TOP GLADES GENERAL HOSPITAL NURSES HONORED

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Belle Glade, FL. June 6, 2008 – Glades General Hospital (GGH) is pleased to announce the winners of the second annual Nursing Distinction Awards. The awards recognize those staff whose contributions to nursing have made a profound impact on patient care and fellow employees at GGH.

Lisa Stevens, R.N. was honored with the 2nd Annual R.N. of the Year award for her dedication, service, compassion and commitment to the patients and fellow staff at Glades General Hospital. Ms. Stevens works in the operating room and has been with GGH since 1995. Other nursing award winners included: Reyna Perez, L.P.N. of the Year; Sharonda Walters, C.N.A. of the Year; and Josephine Gadiano, R.N. who received the Extra-Mile Award.

Winners were chosen based on their abilities to consistently display dedication to excellence beyond the scope of her job, serve as an inspiration to others, discover new ways to assist those in need, and display compassion and caring on a daily basis. Judges took into consideration examples of community service, willingness to help, positive attitude, dependability, and compassion.

Nominations were submitted by fellow employees and managers. “Each year, the number and quality of nominations increases, which speaks volumes about the value and respect our staff members have for one another,” said Chief Nursing Officer Mary Weeks. “Staff spoke about the many ways these nominees helped them grow in their career paths and how they modeled compassion in the care they gave our patients. It’s wonderful to have this opportunity each year to recognize and celebrate our outstanding nurses.”

Commenting on the importance of the nursing staff as the hospital prepares to transition to its new facility in early 2010, Dr. Ron Wiewora, interim CEO of GGH said, “Our nurses are the foundation of Glades General. Many have served for decades. While we are building a modern medical campus that will advance the

delivery of healthcare services in the western communities, the one thing that will remain consistent is the high quality care and compassion that our nurses are known for.”

About Glades General Hospital:

Glades General Hospital, Palm Beach County's only public hospital, is a JCAHO accredited 73- bed acute-care facility located in the heart of a large agricultural belt on the southern shores of Lake Okeechobee. Operated by the Health Care District of Palm Beach County, GGH is one of the largest employers in the Glades with just over 300 employees. The Health Care District is currently constructing a new regional hospital and medical campus that will open in 2010. Glades Healthcare Foundation is leading the fund raising campaign for this \$73 million facility that will feature all-private patient rooms. The new 70-bed hospital hopes to attract physicians and patients from all over Palm Beach County with services including: a Trauma Hawk air landing pad; a 24-hour physician staffed emergency room; obstetrics with advanced diagnostic testing; general surgery; social services; radiology and nuclear medicine.