

Nurses

Making a Difference Every Day

* FLOYD MEDICAL CENTER *

Karen Baughtman

Floyd's Inpatient Nurse of the Year

Ask her co-workers to describe Karen Baughtman and the list of superlatives you receive is endless: valuable employee, tremendous asset, professional, excellent in job performance, strong clinical knowledge, sound decision maker.

It is for those reasons and more that Karen, a registered nurse in Floyd Medical Center's Intensive Care Unit, was selected as Floyd's Inpatient Nurse of the Year during Nurses Week last year.

Since joining Floyd in 1988, Karen has served in a variety of positions ranging from staff nurse to relief House Supervisor and resource nurse. Regardless of her role, Karen's co-workers say she is always willing to lend her expertise.

"We were extremely busy, but Karen, as usual, was so helpful with my unstable patient. What a great resource nurse!" one co-worker said. "While her performance in this situation may have been described as 'usual,' there is nothing usual about her dedication to the staff she supervises or the patients in her care. Her calm demeanor serves as a model for the staff she works with and provides for an optimal healing environment in a high-stress area. She truly is a valued organizational asset."



Sherry Thompson

Floyd's Outpatient Services Nurse of the Year

The fast-paced environment of an outpatient surgery center provides the perfect opportunity for Sherry Thompson to shine.

"Sherry works diligently to make sure the Operating Room runs efficiently for the surgeons while taking care of the OR staff by directing, mothering and educating. She truly sees nursing as a 'calling' and not just a job," said Dr. Rebecca Lowrey, director of the Floyd Outpatient Surgery Center.

The Floyd Outpatient Surgery Center is an affiliate of Floyd, a comprehensive healthcare provider in Northwest Georgia, the hub of which is Floyd Medical Center, a 304-bed acute care hospital located in Rome.

Sherry is truly a star employee at Floyd, and her performance and character earned her 2007 Outpatient Services Nurse of the Year honors from her peers. Sherry's co-workers describe her as "strong and gentle, sensitive and tough," and "a valuable resource in crisis situations." Another paid Sherry perhaps the highest compliment a nurse could bestow on another nurse: "I have asked her to care for both my mother and son when they had surgery."



* SURGERY CENTER AT MT. ZION *

Shawnelle Lupton, RN

Even though Shawnelle has been an operating room nurse with the Surgery Center at Mt. Zion for just one year, she is already considered "Queen of Orthopedics". There isn't much Shawnelle doesn't know about her field. In fact, she is so knowledgeable about the different orthopedic systems that she often trains new doctors on how to use the equipment. Her dexterity makes her a favorite of the Center's orthopedic surgeons as she is able to adjust to suit any physician's style. Shawnelle has a "way" with the physicians says one Surgery Center administrator. "She's able to anticipate their needs and, just as importantly, keep them mindful of the Center's needs as well."



Maureen Merson Pratt, RN

If there is a face that patients associate with the Surgery Center at Mt. Zion, it is Maureen, head of the Center's pre-OP area. She resonates strong leadership, goes above and beyond in everything she does and, most importantly, possesses a wonderful bedside manner. In addition to making patients feel at ease during the tense pre-operative stage, Maureen headed up implementation of the Center's pre-assessment workflow. Before the current management took over at the Center, there was no pre-assessment process; patients would be turned away the day of their scheduled procedure for not meeting the criteria necessary to perform outpatient surgery. With Maureen's leadership, the Center now has a documented process in place that allows completion of pre-assessments over the phone, avoiding the aforementioned problem and decreasing patients' time at our facility. Even with the pre-assessment process in order, she continues to act as a patient advocate, helping both patients and doctors work through the pre-operative process.



Sheryce Gainer, RN

If you're having a bad day, just walk into the recovery room at the Surgery Center at Mt. Zion and spend a few minutes with Sheryce. A nurse with the Center for six years, Sheryce witnessed a complete 180 degree change when new management came into the facility a few years ago. Not only did Sheryce work through the change, she became a change agent in her own right, taking a leadership role over updating and streamlining recovery room policies. Sheryce increased the Center's efficiencies by reducing redundancy in paperwork and required procedures. She partnered with doctors to implement a higher standard of quality care that everyone now adheres to. And in Sheryce's recovery room, there is no question about what happens to a patient once out of surgery and in her care. Everyone who leaves the center post-op is comfortable and confident; they know exactly what they need to do at home after their procedures to facilitate their healing.

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