Trio recognized as Bear of Excellence winners

Registered Nurse Buffie Carter (Southeastern Hospice), Physician Assistant Shannon Evans (Palliative Care) and Nursing Supervisor Sue Tyner (Southeastern Hospice/Southeastern Hospice House) were recognized as Southeastern Health’s August Bears of Excellence.

The award, which is presented to employees who exceed expectations, was given to these three employees after they were nominated by another employee, whose father recently passed away while under the care of Southeastern Hospice.

The employee shared their family’s story in the nomination:
“Over the past few months, my dad’s health rapidly declined from end stage COPD (chronic obstructive pulmonary disease). Many days throughout his journey, I would turn to Shannon for guidance. On days I felt helpless and didn’t know what to do, she was always there for me. One day I was relaying that my dad had started talking about things he wish he had done different or done better. She educated me that he was engaging in life review, as many do as their life journey nears the end. Two days later, she kindly brought six or seven Bible verses for me to read to him. Talking about end of life wishes was hard for him.”

The employee said they wanted to ask Evans to speak with the father but hesitantly kept putting it off until Evans reached out to check on the father and offered to do so without being asked.

“She sat at his bedside and began talking to him about where he was from, his family, and his past times,” the employee wrote. “After he became comfortable with her, she started the conversation about his understanding of his disease and end-of-life wishes. They spoke of what could be done to make sure that he was as comfortable as possible when his time to go was near.”

The employee said they had a new appreciation of the type of conversation they’d heard before from Evans with other patients.

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“This time, I was on the other side, and it was the most beautiful one of all because there she was, talking to MY DADDY, a complete stranger to her, who she made feel comfortable enough that he could let his wishes be known,” the employee wrote. “That precious time he had with us during that particular conversation gave him the peace of mind that he would be taken care of.”

Evans facilitated his admission to Southeastern Hospice in-home care that day, and within six short hours, he passed peacefully.

“She truly has a special gift from God to touch so many lives in the way that she does,” the employee wrote.

The employee gave Nurse Carter credit for ensuring that the father’s medicines were delivered quickly and correctly. “When she arrived to complete my dad’s admission paperwork, she realized that his status had changed from what was originally reported to her,” the employee wrote. “She immediately got on the phone and made several calls to get it there as soon as possible. She wanted to go get it herself, but didn’t want to leave my dad.”

That was when Nursing Supervisor Tyner volunteered to pick up the necessary medications and deliver them to the home. Together, the two nurses walked the family through what to expect and explained the medications. “They will never know how much it meant to me, my dad, and my whole family that they were such wonderful servants,” the employee wrote. “I will be forever grateful for what part each of them took in assuring my daddy spent his last moments peacefully and able to leave this world with the dignity he had hoped for.”

“It’s not my job, it’s my life” said Carter, who holds a bachelor’s degree in nursing and came to Southeastern Hospice a year ago after working at WoodHaven Nursing, Alzheimer’s and Rehabilitation Center, an affiliate of Southeastern Health. She has been with Southeastern Health for six years.

Evans, who has been a National Board Certified Physician Assistant for 37 years, said the most rewarding part of her job is “the unexpected opportunities to serve.”

Tyner has been working in hospice care for 15 years and with Southeastern Hospice House for the last 10 years.

“I feel like I’m called into my position,” Tyner said. “It’s not a position I chose, it chose me.”
We invite you to kick off the Christmas season at the 33rd Annual Southeastern Hospice Festival of Trees, the largest fundraiser for Robeson County’s only not-for-profit hospice agency. All proceeds from the Festival go directly towards patient needs and bereavement care. Your support enhances the quality of our service and expands our reach to all those who need us regardless of their ability to pay.

We hope you will embrace the holiday magic and celebrate with us at the Festival of Trees!

**Holiday Magic**

**SOUTEASTERN HOSPICE FESTIVAL OF TREES**

**33rd annual**

**Festival of Trees**

**December 2 - 4, 2018**

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**The magic of the holidays is in the spirit of giving.**

**Schedule**

Sunday, December 2, 2018
1:00 p.m. until 5:00 p.m.

Monday - Tuesday
December 3 & 4, 2018
9:30 a.m. until 5:30 p.m.

**Location**

Robeson County Public Library
Osterneck Auditorium
Townsend Building
102 N. Chestnut Street
Lumberton, NC

**Admission**

$4.00 Adults
$3.00 Children (under age 3 free)

**Contact**

Sheryl Taylor
(910) 735-8915

**Holiday Tree Parade**

Beautifully theme-decorated trees, wreaths, garland, and more!

**Candy Cane Lane**

Holiday Magic for kids

**Santa Shop**

Holiday Baked Goods for sale

**Tinsel Town**

Unique Handmade Crafts for sale

**Silent Auction**

Bid on an array of holiday items

Several donation opportunities are available to support patients and families served by Southeastern Hospice. Please consider the following ways to show your support: a gift to Festival of Trees, a philanthropic gift or a Legacy Society planned gift. For more information on how you can help create a healthier tomorrow, today, call the SeHealth Foundation at (910) 671-5583 or foundation@southeasternhealth.org.
For the last 10 years, members of The Pentecostals of Lumberton have delivered gift bags every week to Southeastern Hospice House. The bags, which are filled with crackers, fruit, bottled water, and other items, are donations for the families of each new patient.

“This sweet practice began 10 years ago when a small group of The Pentecostals of Lumberton had the desire to make a difference for those going through a difficult time, when the life of a loved one is coming to a close,” said Southeastern Hospice Volunteer Program Leader Sheryl Taylor.

The bags, which are delivered every Wednesday, are one way families are made to feel welcomed at the facility, Taylor said. “This is a very humbling ministry,” said Shae Davis, who is the coordinator for Hospice Ministries with The Pentecostals of Lumberton. “We are as rewarded as those who receive our bags. We want them to know that someone else cares.”

Southeastern Hospice, Robeson County’s only not-for-profit agency serving the terminally ill and their family, receives funding from Southeastern Health Foundation and United Way of Robeson County. Southeastern Hospice benefits from United Way’s campaign efforts in our county.