



Broadview Heights Resident Earns National Award as Top Hospice Nursing Assistant

Broadview Heights resident Nancy Washko has been named “Certified Hospice and Palliative Care Nursing Assistant of the Year” by the Hospice and Palliative Care Credentialing Center (HPCC). The organization provides specialty certification to more than 15,500 healthcare professionals nationwide. Washko joined Hospice of the Western Reserve (HWR) in 2014.

The national award recognizes “an individual who personifies excellence in the clinical practice as a hospice/palliative nursing assistant and provides leadership through mentorship of others in hospice/palliative care,” according to judging criteria on the HPCC website.

“From the moment Nancy interviewed for the position, it was clear that she had a heart for hospice,” said Lisa Carrigan Tomm, RN, BSN, Hospice of the Western Reserve clinical team leader. “She serves as a wonderful mentor and role model for our new hospice nursing assistants. Nancy teaches them that what matters most is making the best of every single day the patient has left.”

Some of the most touching comments about Washko’s care came from a Cleveland man, who had been married nearly 50 years. He reflected on the exceptional care provided to his late wife, who had been coping with a dual diagnosis of Alzheimer’s disease and multiple myeloma:

“Nancy shared with me that she had spent many years working in another profession,” he said. “Then, her mother became ill, and ended up in hospice. When Nancy witnessed how lovingly the nursing assistants cared for her mother, she knew that she had received a calling to do the same for others. She not only does everything the nursing assistants are paid to do, thoroughly and tenderly, but she does it with a spirit of sacredness,” he said. “Her example communicates an expression of love for the value and dignity of life.”

“When I think of who I’d want caring for me at my end of life, I see Nancy Washko,” added HWR social worker Julia Wasilewski. “She is loved by so many for her calming and compassionate demeanor. Nancy is a wonderful listener. Many of our patients and family members feel comforted by her willingness to provide supportive presence and validation.”

About Hospice of the Western Reserve

Hospice of the Western Reserve (www.hospicewr.org) is a nationally acclaimed provider of community-based hospice care, palliative care, and bereavement support services. Since its inception more than 40 years ago, HWR has provided care and support for more than 125,000 patients and their families across 10 Northern Ohio counties. Care is provided in every setting, including the family’s own home, assisted living communities, nursing facilities and hospitals.

