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GRAND LAKE NOMINATES PALLIATIVE CARE NURSE FOR STATE AWARD *Hospital system says her work is what helps make it one of nation's best*

ST. MARY'S, OH — Jane Steinemann seems to operate at her best when others feel they have little hope left in them.

Perhaps that is why she is so highly regarded in her position as a Hospice and Palliative Care nurse at Grand Lake Health System. In her role, Steinemann helps prevent and relieve suffering as well as improve the quality of life for patients facing serious and complex illnesses. Those who see her in action every day say it is her personal strengths as much as her professional skills that make her the best in her practice.

Steinemann, who began her career in nursing more than 28 years ago, has been nominated by Grand Lake for the Ohio Hospital Association's Albert E. Dykes Health Care Worker of the Year Award. The annual award is given to one Ohio caregiver who personifies a leader who gives back to the community, routinely goes beyond the call of duty, and has overcome odds to succeed.

In 2007, while Grand Lake Hospice was still in its infancy stage, Steinemann jumped out of her comfort zone as a home health nurse to join the Hospice ranks. The switch took her from one health care mindset – helping patients progress towards a cure – to another – walking alongside patients who have been diagnosed with a terminal disease or illness. It also brought on much skepticism from colleagues. Still, Steinemann plowed forward, allowing herself to be taught a whole new type of nursing, to be mentored, and to even spend her own time and money in self-education.

In just one year, Steinemann became a leader in Hospice and Palliative Care as well as an example of what it means to provide competent and efficient nursing while giving the patients the time and attention their situation so desperately needs.

Steinemann understands the discomfort felt by most acute care nurses when they are assigned to a patient who has been told nothing more can be done to heal them. Still, she treats that patient with much grace and dignity. She has been known to do extraordinary things for her patients like helping a young grandmother write love letters to her grandbabies to be given to them when they graduate. And working tirelessly to remove a dark cloud of depression from an elderly man who had been told he had a debilitating condition.

"I have worked with Jane for 20 years and I am so proud of the nurse she has turned into," said Linda Haines, director of Home Care, Hospice and Palliative Care at Grand Lake. "She is very much the professional while maintaining incredible compassion when taking care of her patients."

Steinemann is also dedicated to her community and family. As the wife of a local farmer, she is known to take the moments between patient visits to deliver meals into the fields to her husband and son during planting and harvest season. She also volunteers at her church and local rehab center. In 2006, Jane was awarded the Community Service Award from the PSA 3 Area on Aging for her work in promoting public awareness of healthcare issues facing seniors.

Steinemann will be celebrated during the OHA Recognition Dinner on Tuesday, June 15. One ultimate recipient of the award will be named that night, along with four finalists.

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