

PRESS RELEASE

Hospital Community Educator Receives County Award

ROME (November 2003) - Dave Wallace, LPN, community education manager at Rome Memorial Hospital's Senior Behavioral Health Unit, was honored by the Oneida County Office for the Aging for his commitment to the Oneida County Elder Abuse Coalition.



According to Elder Abuse Coalition Program Coordinator Michelle Murphy-Azzarello, the award recognizes Wallace's regular attendance and active participation on the coalition which assesses elder abuse referrals and organizes the Elder Abuse Task Force.

The award honored Wallace for his availability and knowledge of resources in creating multi-disciplinary care plans and for consistent and thorough follow-up on cases.

A 1998 graduate of Madison-Oneida BOCES LPN program, Wallace had previously received the outstanding performance in geriatric nursing award. He has over seven years experience in long-term care in admissions marketing, quality management and social services.

In his role at the Senior Behavioral Health Unit, Wallace is responsible for sharing information about the hospital's 11-bed unit with nursing homes, outpatient clinics, human service agencies, home health care agencies, area physicians, medical groups, and hospitals in Herkimer, Oneida, Madison and Onondaga counties.

Located on the hospital's second floor, the Senior Behavioral Health Unit is a secure therapeutic environment that provides health care for seniors who have depression, anxiety, dementia, and other problems. Treatment includes prescribed medications, psychotherapy, and other activities to help the seniors regain their well being.

The Senior Behavioral Health Unit can take admissions seven days a week, 24 hours a day to meet the needs of seniors in crisis. For more information, please call 338-7399.