

Hospital Announces Nurses of the Year

ROME (May 19, 2004) -- In celebration of National Nurses Week, Rome Memorial Hospital announced the winners of its "Nurse of the Year" awards.

Nurses honor their peers by selecting a "Nurse of the Year" for each clinical area. From among this group, a "Nurse of Excellence" is named. These dedicated professionals are honored for their caring attitude toward patients, superior clinical skills, and critical thinking ability.

The nursing award winners are:

Beth Donnelly, 2004 Nurse of Excellence and Maternal/Child Services Nurse of the Year;

Sue Zylinsky, RN, and Sarah Wnuk, RN, Medical/Surgical Nurse of the Year;
Denise DePasquale, RN, Emergency Services Nurses of the Year;
Katie Kirk, RN, Surgical Services Nurse of the Year;
Karen Kobito, RN, Critical Care Nurse of the Year;
Gayle Illingworth, LPN, Long-Term Care Nurse of the Year;
Kendra Hallman, LPN, LPN of the Year.

Both Donnelly and Kobito are second time winners.

"Winning is a great honor because you are chosen by your peers," said Rick Simpson, RN, coordinator of the selection program and the hospital's Critical Care Coordinator. "Choosing the nurse of excellence is difficult because each nurse is a winner," he added.

Celebrated annually from May 6-14, National Nurses Week focuses attention on the value of nursing and helps educate the public about the role nurses play in meeting their community's health care needs.

"Nurses Week gives us an opportunity to recognize our nurses and offer them our appreciation for their dedication and commitment to excellence," said Vice President of Nursing Durinda Durr, RN. Each of the winning nurses was presented with a certificate of excellence, said Durr. In addition, all nurses at the hospital were honored with a hospital picnic and dessert party to celebrate National Nurses Week and National Hospital Week.

The hospital's medical staff honored the nursing staff by contributing \$1,000 towards nursing education programs and materials.

"This year's theme 'Nurses: Your Voice, Your Life, Your Health' reflects the care that nurses extend to patients every day," Durr said.