The nurse Giving Society Fund at OakMed helped make this year’s conference possible. The guest speaker at the nursing conference was Robin Hertel, RN, MSn, CMSRN, who is skilled at helping nurses understand the importance of their clients and significant others. The guest speaker at the nursing conference was Robin Hertel, RN, MSn, CMSRN, who is skilled at helping nurses understand the importance of their clients and significant others.

You evangelists of encouragement, you are so much more than you know. You have never let what you couldn’t do stop you from doing all you could do. You are salespeople, your briefcases are filled with a product called hope. You are explorers, knowing that once you have gone as far as you can see, you will still see farther. You are singers spreading the melody of consideration. You are lawyers making a case for life. You are authors helping others add more pages to their book of memories. You are comedians dispensing the medicine of laughter. You are magicians creating real miracles that inspire patients and families. Like King Arthur and Joan of Arc, you are warriors battling the villains of negativity. Dorothy would have reached Oz much faster in the company of one nurse.

For no one can practice your profession unless they already possess a brain brimming with wisdom, boundless courage and a heart filled with love.

—excerpted from John Wayne Schlatter, from Chicken Soup for the Nurse’s Soul

Evidence Based Practice Conference Educates Oakwood Nurses

Oakwood’s fifth annual Evidence Based Practice Conference, sponsored by Barb Medvec, the Nurse Executive Council and the Nurse Giving Society, was held on April 7 at the Dearborn Inn. This event celebrates our accomplishments in taking evidence and applying it to our daily practice, while allowing Oakwood nurses to gather together to learn about new practices based in research and clinical evidence.

“This is the only nursing conference created by Oakwood nurses for Oakwood nurses. Approximately 250 nurses attend each year and there is always a waiting list,” says Sandra Schmitt, RSN, OHS Manager, Nursing Development. “This conference offers Oakwood nurses the opportunity to show off their clinical practice. It’s a great way for nurses to come together and share evidenced based practice resulting in best practice. Oakwood nurses are thrilled to attend and participate. Not only does the conference offer an educational enhancement for nurses, but also a networking opportunity as well as a show of appreciation, support, and celebration for all Oakwood nurses. Without the support of the Nurse Giving Society, we would not be able to continue to hold this conference which would be a true detriment to Oakwood nursing.”
Nurse Giving Society Fund Supports Training for Certifications

Oakwood is the only healthcare system with all four acute care facilities being accredited by the Joint Commission for Orthopedic Services. The Joint Commission requires staff—both nurses and other healthcare professionals (physical therapy, rehabilitative staff)—to maintain clinical competence by receiving ongoing education related to orthopedic patient care. The Nurse Giving Society Fund pays for these nurses to receive this specialized training.

The nursing orthopedic certification is a distinction signifying that the nurse has attained a high level of knowledge regarding orthopedic procedures, medications, treatment and patient care. “It is a significant event for a nurse to achieve a nursing certification,” says Diane Lopez, RN, Clinical Manager—3 South Intermediate Care. “Many staff in our ORs began a team-based and safety-oriented approach called ‘cubed’ resource management’ or CRM, which will move throughout all of Oakwood’s clinical areas this year. Growth in our Trauma Teams, as well as our Stroke and Orthopedic Joint Commission Diverse Designations, demonstrate key nursing leadership. Our Oakwood Gallup survey demonstrated that through the growth and use of Unit Based Councils, overall nursing staff engagement and satisfaction has increased.”

Oakwood’s nurse professional development team evaluates certification opportunities to ensure that nursing has the latest technology, but they really need and want our best service and compassion. “That’s what I like about Oakwood and appreciate about the Evidence Based Practice conference: it focuses on best service, like ROC.”

Continued from previous page

Nurses impact the quality of patient care in so many ways. From admission to discharge, from clinical education to community outreach, Oakwood nurses bring compassion, dedication and clinical excellence to every patient and family we serve. Your commitment to improving your skills, your determination to make a difference in the lives of our patients and your celebration of the nursing profession makes you proud that you are an Oakwood nurse.

During Nurses Week we celebrate the dedicated nursing professionals of the Oakwood Healthcare System. We thank you for everything you do for our patients and their families...you are Oakwood! From your friends and admirers at the Oakwood Foundation.

Barbara A. Medvec, RN, BSN, MSN, MSA
Senior Vice President and Chief Nursing Officer, Oakwood Healthcare, Inc.

Carla O’Malley, RN
Executive Director and President, Oakwood Foundation

Nurse Giving Society—An Oakwood Success Story

Compassionate Giving
Clinical Excellence—Responding Professionally Nursing Excellence—Together We Can Do Great Things!

Oakwood Nurse Giving Society (NGS) was established in 2003 as a model program of philanthropic support and community involvement anchored by nursing professionals and friends of the Oakwood Healthcare System. Since its inception, NGS nurses and friends have contributed over $230,000 to their site NGS funds. In turn, nurses have been able to access these funds to attend conferences, purchase reference books and materials, receive certifications and advanced training, and bring back the best practices in clinical care for the benefit of their patients, as well as their professional advancement. “This nursing practice is continuously evolving and it is imperative that our staff nurses remain current to provide excellent quality care,” says Tammy Amendola, RN, BSN, Clinical Manager—6 North, OHMC. “The Nurse Giving Society allows that to happen.”

The directive of the NGS is to identify the causes that have wide appeal among nursing professionals and to solicit their contributions through Oakwood’s annual employee appeal—the Community Giving Campaign. “Nurses are thrilled that the NGS is so supportive of their educational pursuits—which of course, bring increased quality to the system,” says Terri Donnare, RN, BSN, Clinical Manager—RN/BSN, OHMC. Through the NGS, evidence-based practice is available for nurses to attend a wide variety of conferences, including Care for the Stroke Patient, Emergency Nursing Pediatric courses, Palliative Care, Infusion Therapy, national Magnet conferences and Neurological Emergencies, just to name a few. Over 320 nurses have attended these courses, many receiving advanced certifications. “As a clinical manager my budget is very tight, and it’s nice that I can encourage my staff to go to seminars and have it paid for them to go,” says Christine Stark-Hanka, RN, BSN, MSA, Clinical Manager—Monitored Care Unit 4 North, OHMC. “This enhances their ability to provide good care to our patients and makes Oakwood the great place to be that we all want to work.”

The NGS also supports training for nursing initiatives such as Relationship-Oriented Care, or ROC. “ROC has a lot of positive effects on patients and nursing,” says Diane Lopez, RN, Clinical Manager—3 South Intermediate Care Unit, OHMC. “It really brings the nurse in tune to the patient’s needs. We use the ROC board to communicate goals with the patient and the family. We can better meet the emotional needs of the patient during this ROC process. It helps our whole communication process and how the family views the communication.”

For the past five years, Oakwood has also sponsored the Evidence Based Practice conference with funding from the NGS. Over 1,000 nurses have attended the annual conferences, featuring nationally-known experts in nursing issues, workshop sessions, poster displays and networking opportunities, all to advance our nurses’ knowledge in the best practices of clinical care.

The NGS provides Oakwood’s nursing professionals and friends with the opportunity to support programs important to their advancement and the best care for our patients. “Nurse Giving Society helps to ensure that nurses have the opportunity to possess the value of compassion, giving them the chance to develop skills and add to the profession and better serve patients,” says Mary Jane Magalotti, RN, BSN, MS, OHS Director for Nursing Excellence. “As a nurse leader within Oakwood it is important for me to give to nursing, to the profession I choose. This allows a return on investment and our future.”

One Oakwood nurse shares her story:

Through the NGS funds I was able to attend the 12th National Magnet Conference in Salt Lake City, Utah hosted by the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC). This annual conference focused on the vision for the future and illustrated the importance of Magnet organizations in instituting changes that are essential to continuing the development of the nursing profession and ensuring quality outcomes in patient care.

The conference gave us the opportunity to network with other hospitals on the journey to Nursing Excellence and also those who have already received Magnet designation. There was sharing of best clinical practice, operations, research and everyday issues we face—whether at Oakwood or another part of the country.

Through the Nurse Giving Society, eight Oakwood nurses attended. This would have not been possible without the funding, given our tough economic times. One of the nurses commented to me that this was the first national conference she had attended in her nursing career and she was impressed at the giving of the nurses within Oakwood to make it possible.

Mary Jane Magalotti, RN, BSN, MS, OHS Director for Nursing Excellence