

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Morgan Memorial Hospital's Rosalyn Shrader Recognized as G.R.E.A.T. Ambassador

May 26, 2008—Madison, GA --Rosalyn Shrader, Program Manager of the Morgan Memorial Hospital Senior Life Enrichment Center, was recently named a G.R.E.A.T. Ambassador by the Georgia Hospital Association (GHA). This designation celebrates and showcases the commitment and caring that hospital employees bring to their job, community and to the Georgia health care industry. The G.R.E.A.T. Ambassador Program, which stands for Giving Recognition for Excellence, Advocacy and Teamwork, provides hospital employees the opportunity to tell their personal stories about how they chose a health care profession, why they like their job and what they like about working for their hospital.

“Ros is an ideal recipient for the G.R.E.A.T. Ambassador recognition,” said Terry Evans, Chairman of Morgan Memorial’s Hospital Authority. “She represents everything that Morgan Memorial stands for: putting the patient first.”

Her essay outlining not only why she chose the healthcare field, but also why she has stayed in it follows:

Why Did I choose the Healthcare Field and Why I am Still In It?

“Thirty two years ago I graduated from nursing school armed with years of hard work and student experiences. I was going to save the world! I would be the one to help the doctors cure diseases, relieve pain, bring healthy babies into the world, and help any number of other miracles be performed. I would have the ideal patients whose symptoms were book-perfect. The course of their illnesses would run smoothly, and all would discharge home healthier than before.

Today I am still in the healthcare field because patients do not meet the book-perfect scenarios we learn about in school. Not all patients can be fixed. They hurt. Babies are not always healthy. And miracles don’t always happen. Sometimes patients get sicker. Sometimes they die.

Nursing school taught me the basics. My patients have taught me about life. They have taught me how to live with pain and sickness, and just plain feeling bad on a daily basis. They have taught me how to go about normal activities without limbs or sight or hearing. They have taught me how to bury loved ones and go on with the business of living. They have taught me about family and God and how to not lose perspective of the bigger picture.

I have had opportunities to work with patients in hospitals, outpatient, nursing homes, public health, and home health. I have been given the chance to be a part of their lives when they are at their worst and at their best. I have taken care of patients in homes without running water or any of the everyday conveniences most of us take for granted. I have witnessed the love between a husband and wife through Alzheimer’s, cancer treatments, through the loss of a child, and countless other experiences. I am amazed at the resilience and hardiness of people who get knocked down over and over; yet they still keep moving forward. I have been blessed with the opportunity to hold the hands of the dying and watch them leave this world with courage, dignity, and hope.

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I entered the healthcare field naïve and inexperienced. I am still in the healthcare field because of the awe-inspiring experiences I have had. I am grateful that I have been a part of the lives of so many special people and hope that some of my experiences have helped to ease the way and improve the quality of life for those whose paths have crossed mine.”

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