

Alan M. Pedersen Humanitarian Award

June 17, 2015



Debra N. Mazza, MEd, LAC, CGC, Palliative Care Counselor

Palliative Care Department

Nominated by: Susanne Walther, APRN; Sheila Walsh, APRN and Janet Harris Smith, MS, CT

It is expected that a palliative care counselor would provide compassion to her patients and their family members. But Debra Mazza takes that expectation to a higher plane.

Palliative care is often frenetic and frequently demands immediacy in traumatic situations, especially when a person is experiencing the worst imaginable scenario. Deb's calm and empathetic presence transforms these horrific moments into thoughtful, sometimes profound experiences for families. She gently guides people who have to make unthinkable decisions and does so, with remarkable thoughtfulness.

When Debra works with patients who have been hospitalized for long periods of time, she shines in her role as counselor. She shows endless patience and sensitivity as she helps them come to terms with what might be, a life profoundly altered. Debra has the ability to flawlessly know what *will* and *will not* help a patient. Family members have responded to Debra's kindness in many meaningful ways, such as inviting her to the wake of a loved one, publically praising her compassionate spirit and writing letters of appreciation.

Although Debra has worked at University Hospital for only a short time, she is already highly respected by her patients and colleagues. When members of the Palliative Care Team struggle with compassion fatigue, she uses fresh insights and new perspectives to help them re-energize and re-focus on the task at hand.

Debra is a magician at rechanneling negativity into energy that can aid in healing. She is the humanitarian we would like to be for others, and in difficult times, the humanitarian we would like to have for ourselves.



UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL
Newark, New Jersey

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Helen A. Margulski, Special Projects Coordinator

Human Resources Department

Nominated by: Lorraine Bell, Director, Learning and Organizational Development

Helen Margulski is an impassioned ambassador for the Human Resources Department.

For over 22 years, she has provided unwavering support for all the key, organization-wide projects for UMDNJ and University Hospital.

Helen is enthusiastic and shows compassion for co-workers, the organization, and the community it supports. Whatever project she leads, she continually looks for ways to improve. Here are some of Helen's many accomplishments....

- Manages the Summer Youth Program and does everything in her power to ensure the students have a good experience.
- Volunteered to be the single point person for the Employee Charitable Campaign.
- Participated in the Graduation Committee for UMDNJ.
- Ensures that all staff meetings are interactive and fun.
- Coordinates the celebrations of birthdays and special events within her department.
- Volunteers to support any UH event (i.e., Holiday Party) with enthusiasm.
- Coordinated the move of her department to the ADMC Building and exceeded her responsibility to ensure its success.

"I have worked with Helen for over 22 years and her compassion, empathy, enthusiasm, and service to our staff and the organization is greater than anything I have seen. She will hound you like a dog to make sure that HR is 100% compliant with all mandatory training, yet does it with a terrific sense of humor. Helen will do whatever it takes to get the job done. Making people feel valued and important, is always her first priority."

Lorraine Bell

YOU RADIATE PURE AWESOME.