



The influential voice of Nebraska's hospitals

## NEWS RELEASE

### *For Immediate Release*

Contact: Adrian Sanchez  
Director of Communications  
(402) 742-8151 or [asanchez@NebraskaHospitals.org](mailto:asanchez@NebraskaHospitals.org)

Date: 10/29/2014

## NHA honors "Caring Kind" recipients

LINCOLN — The Nebraska Hospital Association (NHA) recognized 73 hospital workers Friday for their excellence in service by bestowing them with the NHA's prestigious "Caring Kind" award.

For 35 years, the Caring Kind award has been given to Nebraska's most caring hospital workers. The award honors outstanding health care employees who have demonstrated compassion for patients, cooperation with co-workers and dedication to excellence in their job responsibilities.

"Caring Kind recipients demonstrate the kindness, caring, dedication and commitment that exemplifies why health care in Nebraska continues to be among the best in the nation," NHA President Laura J. Redoutey said. "The NHA is proud to recognize these outstanding health care workers who have made a tremendous difference in the lives of their patients, co-workers, hospitals and communities."

Hospitals across the state each select one Caring Kind recipient from within their respective institutions to be recognized during the NHA Annual Convention.

More than 2,000 dedicated health care professionals have received this award since its inception in 1979. This year, 73 employees were honored before more than 525 people in attendance at the 35th Anniversary of the Caring Kind Awards Luncheon held Oct. 24 at The Cornhusker Marriott in Lincoln.

(Continued)



The influential voice of Nebraska's hospitals

The event is held to showcase the exemplary work and care hospital employees provide day in and day out throughout the year. From doctors to frontline staff, each and every employee plays a critical role in providing high quality, cost effective treatment and ensuring the safety of themselves, their co-workers and patients each and every day.

“These individuals are the unsung heroes who work to keep our hospitals prepared, safe and operational,” Redoutey said. “While we set aside one day to honor these extraordinary individuals for their exemplary efforts, their dedication and commitment touches the lives of the frail, the vulnerable, the injured and sick each and every day.”

The NHA would like to congratulate the following Caring Kind recipients:

- VirJean Adams, Brown County Hospital in Ainsworth
- Haider Al-Ghazaali, Phelps Memorial Health Center in Holdrege
- Kim Allgood, CHI Health St. Mary’s in Nebraska City
- Brenda Andersen, Oakland Mercy Hospital in Oakland
- Kimberly Blake, Howard County Medical Center in St. Paul
- Amber Block, Osmond General Hospital in Osmond
- Nina Bouchard, CHI Health Immanuel in Omaha
- Jennifer Bragg, Nebraska Orthopaedic Hospital in Omaha
- Cathy Broz, Dundy County Hospital in Benkelman
- Kay Busekist, Community Memorial Hospital in Syracuse
- Sandy Buss, Johnson County Hospital in Tecumseh
- Linda Collins, Gardenside Long-Term Care in Fairbury
- Leah Dutro, Lexington Regional Health Center in Lexington
- Nancy Exstrom, CHI Health St. Elizabeth in Lincoln
- Betsy Feilmeier, Faith Regional Health Services in Norfolk
- Alvaro Figueroa, Boys Town National Research Hospital in Omaha
- Patricia File, Brodstone Memorial Hospital in Superior

(Continued)



The influential voice of Nebraska's hospitals

- Lisa Fix, West Holt Memorial Hospital in Atkinson
- Michelle Foley, Madonna Rehabilitation Hospital in Lincoln
- Amber Fritz, Avera Creighton Hospital in Creighton
- David Grigsby, CHI Health Lakeside in Omaha
- Rebecca Guzinski, Memorial Community Hospital & Health System in Blair
- Deb Hanson, Fremont Health in Fremont
- Geri Harrison, CHI Health Plainview in Plainview
- Teresa Hasenkamp, St. Joseph's Retirement Community in West Point
- Sharon Heineman, Pender Community Hospital in Pender
- Donna Higgins, VA Nebraska-Western Iowa Health Care System in Omaha
- Dan Holbein, Cozad Community Health System in Cozad
- Andrea Hunter, CHI Health Creighton University Medical Center in Omaha
- Cathy Iwan, Spalding Medical Clinic at Boone County Health Center in Albion
- Dr. Shiuvaun Jaeger, Tri Valley Health System in Cambridge
- Peggy Jarrell, Nebraska Methodist Hospital in Omaha
- Kelly Johnson, Butler County Health Care Center in David City
- Sandy Johnson, Columbus Community Hospital in Columbus
- Sarah Junge, York General Hearthstone in York
- Janine Kavan, Saunders Medical Center in Wahoo
- Donna Koehler, Avera St. Anthony's Hospital in O'Neill
- Amanda Lechman, Ogallala Community Hospital in Ogallala
- Laura Nelson, Valley County Health System in Ord
- Ginger Nixon, Providence Medical Center in Wayne
- Rhonda Novak, Antelope Memorial Hospital in Neligh
- Valentina Orduna, Nebraska Medicine – Nebraska Medical Center in Omaha

(Continued)



The influential voice of Nebraska's hospitals

- Shari Peters, Litzenberg Memorial County Hospital in Central City
- Amanda Potts, Regional West Garden County in Oshkosh
- Michelle Pruter, Annie Jeffrey Memorial County Health Center in Osceola
- Gloria Pulliam, Nebraska Medicine – Bellevue in Bellevue
- Joanie Reynolds, Rock County Hospital in Bassett
- Dr. Jonathan Richman, Chase County Community Hospital in Imperial
- Lynnae Rotta, CHI Health Bergan Mercy in Omaha
- Kim Ruhnke, Thayer County Health Services in Hebron
- Martha Sandoval, Great Plains Health in North Platte
- Joni Sautter, Box Butte General Hospital in Alliance
- Kayleen Schepker, Franklin County Memorial Hospital in Franklin
- Julie Schreiner, CHI Health Good Samaritan in Kearney
- Vickie Smith, Sidney Regional Medical Center in Sidney
- Melissa Soester, Memorial Health Care Systems in Seward
- Danielle Swanson, Bryan Medical Center in Lincoln
- Abby Taft, Select Specialty Hospital in Omaha
- Anne Thallas, Children's Hospital & Medical Center in Omaha
- Debra Thomason, Methodist Women's Hospital in Omaha
- Dixie Thompson, Chadron Community Hospital & Health Services in Chadron
- Brad Tiede, Memorial Community Health in Aurora
- Sara Van Drew, Mary Lanning Healthcare in Hastings
- Jorge Martin Vargas, Regional West Health Services in Scottsbluff
- Ashley Vontz, Crete Area Medical Center in Crete
- Michelle Watkins, Nemaha County Hospital in Auburn
- Dianne Weishahn, Beatrice Community Hospital & Health Center in Beatrice

(Continued)



The influential voice of Nebraska's hospitals

- Karen Wright, Harlan County Health System in Alma
- Louise Wulf, Fillmore County Hospital in Geneva
- Carol Young, Community Hospital in McCook
- Essi Yovogan, CHI Health Midlands in Papillion
- Jennifer Zentz, CHI Health St. Francis in Grand Island
- Carol Zrust, CHI Health Schuyler in Schuyler

###

The Nebraska Hospital Association helps hospitals fulfill their missions to ensure access to high quality, cost effective and comprehensive care to their communities. The Association offers collaborative leadership, assisting its members to improve the health status and emergency preparedness of their communities. Since 1927, the NHA has provided legislative advocacy, educational programming, data information and communication to Nebraska's hospitals. For more information, please visit the NHA website at [www.NebraskaHospitals.org](http://www.NebraskaHospitals.org).