

## 2009 Hall of Fame Inductees

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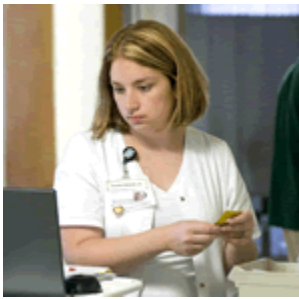
Since 2002, Cleveland Clinic health system has honored deserving nurses with the Hall of Fame Award. The award celebrates nurses who demonstrate special skills, dedication and compassion in delivering bedside patient care. Nurses are nominated by hospital employees, physicians and volunteers. Nurses are chosen from each hospital, and all winners and their guests attend an award dinner and ceremony.

We salute all the winners of the ninth annual Hall of Fame Award. From each hospital, dozens of deserving nurses were nominated, and they all should be highly commended for a job well done!



**Nancy Beth Alexander, RN, CEN**  
**Huron Hospital**  
**Emergency Department**

To me, nursing is treating the patient the way you would want your family to be treated. It's holding the mother of a sudden-infant-death-syndrome baby, or crying with a daughter whose mom has been shot by her dad. You leave nursing school with only the most basic knowledge and skills; with so much to learn. Emergency room nurses are mothers, waitresses, teachers and referees. At times your back and feet hurt, and you get headaches from the stress. But then there is the feeling of satisfaction when it comes together; when you walk out of a room and know that 'my being there made a difference. I am a nurse.'



**Elizabeth Bielawski, LPN**  
**South Pointe**  
**Medical/Telemetry Unit**

A career in nursing is a wonderful, challenging and personally rewarding choice that allows you to see and do different things every day. I first knew I wanted to be a nurse after I saw the effects of Alzheimer's on my grandmother. I knew I could provide excellent care not only to patients, but also to their families. In 2008, I was the only nurse in my unit to successfully complete the Clinical Ladder program, which recognizes and encourages professional development for nurses who provide direct patient care. After receiving the award, I helped other nurses in my unit complete the program. Our unit consistently ranks highly in the area of teamwork and has been recognized for excellence.



**Mary Black, RN**  
**Fairview**  
**Oncology and Women's Health**

Several years ago, a female patient came to Fairview Hospital for chemotherapy. She had experienced a severe reaction to it in the past and was very scared. I spent the entire night with her, calming her nerves and administering medication. During this time, I shared a special book with her that I give to all my oncology patients, called "Love, Medicine and Miracles," by Dr. Bernie Siegel. Recently, this special patient happened to be at the hospital and overheard mention of the book. She knew I was there and came to reunite with me. I am humbled by this award because there are so many other wonderful nurses making a difference without recognition.

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**Jodi Calaway, BSN, RN, EMT-P**  
**Ashtabula County Medical Center**  
**Emergency Department**

My grandmother was a nurse, and she was a very influential role model in my life. Ever since I was a little girl, I knew I wanted to be a nurse, too. I've been working in the emergency department for 10 years. The best part about my job is that I get to deal with patients young and old. Each day, I find motivation in knowing I will be making a difference in someone's life, and I will have to do it very quickly. I especially love the teamwork in the emergency department. We work together under intense pressure and form very strong bonds.



**Jeanmarie Campana, RN**  
**Main Campus**  
**Nutrition Support Team**

I have dedicated my nursing career to caring for the critically ill patient. After 30 years of bedside ICU care, a great opportunity was presented to me and I became the Cleveland Clinic's first Enteral Access nurse as part of the Nutrition Support Team. We really have a great program, and I now concentrate on placing feeding tubes in the small bowel of the gastrointestinal tract. The technique and equipment necessary to place the tubes has allowed me to develop expertise. Some of the most rewarding things about my job are providing patients with the nutrition they need, the opportunity to be involved in research and the ability to educate other healthcare professionals.



**Helen Cooper, RN, ANM**  
**Euclid**  
**Emergency Department**

I was scared when I first started working in the emergency room 21 years ago, but I was fortunate to meet another nurse, Marilyn, who mentored me and became a great friend along the way. Today, working in the ER is my passion. The environment is one where we need to move fast and multitask. Seeing such a variety of patients gives me the opportunity to learn something new every day. I enjoy watching the miracles of medicine when patients make full recoveries. When a critical patient comes in, we all come together as a team, and each person just knows what to do. Though my job in the emergency room is unpredictable, I love it. If you're a true ER person, you know it and you stay there.



**Holly Engel, RN, CCRN**  
**Euclid**  
**Critical Care Unit**

As a teenager, my grandmother became very sick. I didn't know how to help her and neither did anyone else. Before she passed away, I promised Grandma I would become a nurse so I could help other people like her. Today, I find the most rewarding part of my job to be the smiles and simple thank you's from patients who are truly appreciative of what I do for them. Nurses gain a different perspective on life than others by being able to impact a person in their darkest moments and comfort those who have suffered a loss. For these reasons, I would tell anyone considering a career in nursing to go for it. The field has been very good to me, and I hope to have a caring nurse there for me when I am old.

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**Doris Harper, RN**  
**Ashtabula County Medical Center**  
**Medical/Surgical Unit**

Growing up, I had always talked of becoming a nurse. Ten years after high school, I went to Kent State University to fulfill my dream and become an RN. I've been at ACMC for 10 years. It's an environment where we practice team nursing, which enables me to provide quality, patient-centered care. My patients will always be my number one priority. My home unit is a telemetry unit, but I also spend some time on the skilled nursing unit and in the ICU. I'm a people person, so I enjoy working wherever I'm needed. My career in nursing has been very rewarding. At the end of the day, I enjoy knowing that I have made a positive impact on someone's life.



**Michele Jackson-Lyons, BSN, RN**  
**Huron**  
**Medical Intensive Care Unit**

I remember wanting to work in the medical field back in eighth grade. That thread — the ability to make a contribution — remained deep-seated within me and led me to pursue a second career in nursing. What I find most rewarding are the families who say, 'You were good to my mom, my dad, my sister, my brother.' The expressions of those who see the caring and expertise coming together: that's what moves me. My first career in customer service helped me understand the focus on patient-centered care. Nurses provide a service, and along with compassion, we need to have skills and confidence. I love what I do and have taken that love back into my community and church family.



**Joan Licata, BSN, RNC**  
**Marymount**  
**Cardiac Rehabilitation**

During the 36 years that I have been at Marymount Hospital, I have had wonderful, caring professionals as mentors. They instilled in me that taking care of patients was not just taking vital signs and giving baths but anticipating — and meeting — patients' needs. They taught me to be thorough and to act and dress in a professional manner. (Back in the day that meant wearing your cap!) Today I am a cardiac rehabilitation nurse and instructor. Seeing my patients become physically and mentally stronger and empowered to control their risk factors and embrace their lifestyle changes makes me feel good. They make me want to be a better nurse so that I can take better care of them!



**Karla Mintus, RN**  
**Hillcrest**  
**Special Care Nursery**

I try to live by this Bible Scripture: "Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience" Colossians 3:10. I believe, in return, my job has been so rewarding. I've been in Hillcrest's Special Care Nursery for 17 years. I've learned volumes of information and have made many friendships. I've kept in touch with many of the parents of the babies I cared for. I was even able to visit one patient, who is now 6 years old, in France. Being a nurse has enriched my life; the opportunities are endless. Even through the stressful times and long, odd hours, I know I am the one truly blessed to care for these patients.

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**Susan Moran, BS, RN**  
**Lakewood**  
**Progressive Care Unit**

A longtime interest in diabetes is one of the reasons why I chose nursing as a second career. Today, I'm the 'diabetes champion' for our unit. If other nurses have a question about diabetes, they often address it to me. I also attend quarterly meetings for diabetes and have pursued diabetes education at Cleveland State University. I'm also currently studying to become certified in Progressive Care Nursing. I am grateful for the knowledge I have gained throughout my career. I work with great nurses and have a wonderful manager. Although it can be stressful at times, I love my job and have no regrets.



**Kathleen Meyers, BSN, RN**  
**Lutheran**  
**Intensive Care Unit**

I began my nursing career at Cleveland Clinic in 1966, when many new and exciting techniques and innovations were developing: the first kidney transplants, open heart surgeries, cardiac catheterizations, Crohn's disease treatments and early breast cancer research. I worked in this environment for 10 years prior to taking a hiatus to start my family. When I returned in 1986, I began working in the critical care area. It's my first love because it allows me the opportunity to use my critical thinking skills and be an important part of diagnosing the problem. I am challenged daily and have learned things about myself and my patients, which has enriched me throughout my career.



**Darleen Myers RN**  
**Marymount**  
**Medical/Surgery Unit**

Since the day I started working at Marymount Hospital, teamwork has been the focus. Our whole department works well as a team, which benefits both the department and our patients. If there's an issue, we come together to resolve it. You will never hear anybody say, 'That's not my patient.' I really enjoy the closeness of the community here. Because I live in the area, I see many of my colleagues outside of work. Marymount is a family-oriented hospital, and it's important to me to treat all my patients as if they were family. Teamwork is also important at home, where my family has been very supportive of me.



**Michelle Olson, RN**  
**South Pointe**  
**Post-Anesthesia Care Unit**

I've worked in the PACU for 27 years, and anesthesia has evolved in that time. We're always learning here. Our unit works well as a team; we depend on each other, we are there for each other. The physicians value us and our opinions, and we have a large say in the care of our patients. One thing I really enjoy about nursing is the day-to-day challenge of time management. As a coordinator of daily operations, I manage staffing needs and direct where patients go and who will care for them. I like the challenge of making sure everyone is taken care of. I think nurses are more respected for their knowledge today than in the past. I encourage people to go into nursing.



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**Shaheen Rahman, RN, ANM**  
**Hillcrest**  
**Neuro/trauma Unit**

I have been an RN for 24 years, 12 of which I have spent as a manager in the neuro/trauma unit. Through nursing, I am able to understand the true meaning of caring, tolerance and compassion. I have a sense of peace at the end of each day. My greatest reward is knowing that I'm able to lend a helping hand to my patients and ease their suffering. Being a nurse has enriched my life, my relationships and my outlook, which has inspired me to work as a volunteer. Volunteering has helped me to balance my career with the joys in life and to laugh along the way. When I am in good spirits, my patients are too.



**Lynne Schaefer, LPN, ORT**  
**Lakewood**  
**Surgery Department**

I chose my particular nursing subspecialty because I find the operating room to be an extremely exciting area. It's constantly evolving, which allows me the opportunity for professional growth and continuous education. I enjoy scrubbing a variety of cases each day. I've been working in the department of surgery for about 30 years, and I've been an employee of Lakewood Hospital for 36. Over the years, our hospital has grown, but we continue to treat each individual as a member of our family. Our staff diligently works together as a team to create positive results for our patients.



**Sheila Struble, RNC**  
**Fairview**  
**Neonatal Intensive Care Unit**

It is important for a NICU nurse to be extremely flexible and have the ability to reprioritize in a matter of minutes. I started working in the NICU 34 years ago, and a special baby named Max was one of the first I cared for. I met with physicians to discuss his condition and learned to push for the treatment I knew he needed. Today, Max is a college graduate who is gainfully employed and healthy. He taught me that every life is worth fighting for. I stay motivated knowing the babies leave our unit as healthy as they can be. The best part of my job is seeing those babies come back and visit us years later. It is a great feeling of success.



**Kathy Tripepi-Bova, CNS**  
**Main Campus**  
**Nursing Education**

Both my parents worked as medical professionals. My mother was a nurse and my father was a pharmacist. It inspired me to become a nurse, and I have been in the field for 32 years. I enjoy working closely with a gifted team of clinical nurse specialists, nurses, ancillary personnel and surgical staff. I love the autonomy of my role and the collegiality of peers and surgeons. The role of a CNS has evolved over the years, allowing me to gain expertise in the area of thoracic surgery. As a CNS, I'm still involved in clinical care, thereby keeping my "roots" as a nurse. Being a CNS has given me the opportunity to travel to places I normally could not have traveled. It is truly my life's work.

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### **Megan Vorndran, RN** **Lutheran** **Adult Behavioral Health**

I was the little girl who wanted to help everyone, and this desire led me into nursing. Every day I touch a life or a life touches mine. No two days are ever the same. I chose to work in Adult Behavioral Health to have more one-on-one time with patients so I can help them progress through their hospitalization. What I love most about my unit is our team environment. My co-workers are my second family and we work together to get any job done. I've worked at Lutheran Hospital for five years, and being at a smaller hospital allows me to know employees in different departments. With all the opportunities for advancement, being a Cleveland Clinic nurse isn't just a job, but a career for a lifetime.



### **Lori Zielinski** **Home Care Hospice**

I chose to become a home care nurse because I am able to help sick patients outside the busy hospital setting. Being a home care nurse is just as demanding as hospital nursing, but I am able to give patients my undivided, unhurried attention while I'm in their home. It is special to see the joy on their faces as they begin to understand the things I am teaching them. I am the senior RN in my district, so other nurses often call me for advice and assistance. Because of the nature of my job, I always bring my work home with me. It takes a special family like mine to understand what it means to be a home care nurse, because all my patients are only a phone call away. It is especially rewarding to see that I have been a role model to my oldest daughter, who is currently training to be a nurse.