DAISY Award honors extraordinary nurse at UPMC Braddock

Chris Strueve, R.N., a nurse in UPMC Braddock's Coronary Care Unit (CCU) has been honored as the hospital's latest recipient of the coveted DAISY Award for Extraordinary Nurses. The award is part of the DAISY Foundation's national program to recognize the super-human efforts nurses perform everyday.

Ms Strueve was nominated by the granddaughter of one of her patients attesting to her commitment to being the kind of nurse that patients and family members recognize as an outstanding role model. The family member's nomination relates that: "My grandma was a patient in the UPMC Braddock CCU and had been in bed for several days. She was having great difficulty in finding a comfortable position to rest. Chris worked with grandma diligently and caringly to assist her into a comfortable position and bolstered her with pillows. Grandma was so appreciative of the care and patience that Chris exhibited in this and other instances of her stay. I know that she had other patients in the CCU, but Chris made me feel like Gram was her only patient. She exemplifies compassion. She is a blessing to your department and your hospital!" Ms Strueve received her DAISY award at a special celebration conducted for staff and managers of UPMC Braddock's Critical Care Services, August 26. Colleen Reynolds, vice president, Patient Care Services and Chief Nursing Officer, was joined by Sandy Casey, R.N., director, Critical Care Services, in presenting the award. "Excellence in nursing care has always been the cornerstone of our hospital, and we're grateful to the DAISY Foundation for providing yet another opportunity to recognize the outstanding dedication and caring of our nurses most appropriately represented by Chris Strueve," Ms Reynolds attested.

Chris Strueve, R.N., (center) proudly displays her Daisy Award sculpture, "A Healer's Touch," presented by Colleen Reynolds, Chief Nursing Officer (left), and Sandy Casey, R.N., director, Critical Care Services, UPMC Bradddock.

As part of the award, Ms. Strueve received a certificate commending her for being an "Extraordinary Nurse." The certificate reads: "In deep appreciation of all you do, who you are, and the incredibly meaningful difference you make in the lives of so many people." She also received a commemorative pin and a beautiful and meaningful sculpture called A Healer's Touch, hand-carved by artists of the Shona Tribe in Africa. The sculpture has become the signature focal point of the DAISY Award program.

The not-for-profit DAISY Foundation is based in Glen Ellen, CA, and was established by family members in memory of J. Patrick Barnes. Patrick died at the age of 33 in late 1999 from complications of Idiopathic Thrombocytopenic Purpura (ITP), a little known but not uncommon auto-immune disease. The care Patrick and his family received from nurses while he was ill inspired this unique means of thanking nurses for making a profound difference in the lives of their patients and patient families.

Said Bonnie Barnes, Co-Founder of The DAISY Foundation, "When Patrick was critically ill, our family experienced first-hand the remarkable skill and care nurses provide acutely ill patients every day and night. Yet these unsung heroes are seldom recognized for the super-human work they do. The kind of work the nurses at UPMC Braddock are called on to do every day epitomizes the purpose of The DAISY Award."

UPMC Braddock is among over 80 hospitals nationally committed to The DAISY Award program. For a complete listing of hospitals currently participating in the program, please go to www.daisyfoundation.org