

Bridgeport Hospital salutes employees at annual dinner

BRIDGEPORT, CT (May 26, 2017) – Nearly 400 employees were honored for achieving service milestones of five to 45 years or more during Bridgeport Hospital's May 22 Employee Recognition Dinner at The Waterview in Monroe.

Progressive Care Unit nurse Cheryl Chasse of Shelton was named Employee of the Year and Primary Care Center Assistant Nurse Manager Mary Angelucci of Trumbull received the George B. and Alice P. Longstreth Humanness Award, which recognizes the human side of health care behind the science.

Chasse was the September 2016 Bridgeport Hospital Quality Award winner (employee of the month) for reuniting a dying man with his sister, who was also a hospital patient at the time. Because of Cheryl's extraordinary efforts, the two siblings were able to hold hands as the man passed away.

Angelucci has been cited multiple times in the Quality Award program and was a monthly award winner twice in the past year, in June and December 2016. She earned the June award for coming to the aid of a toddler who lost consciousness at a community meeting. She helped stabilize the boy until an ambulance arrived to take him to the hospital. In December, she joined a colleague to help fulfill a woman's wishes to become a U.S. citizen before she died.

The longest-tenured employees who attended the dinner included Ruth Soltis of Milford, Laboratory, 52 years; Linda Podolak of Trumbull, School of Nursing, 48 years; John Amaral of Shelton, Food and Nutrition, and Carolyn Puchowicz also of Shelton, Department of Psychiatry, 47 years; and Joanne Jones of Seymour, Radiology, 46 years.

Bridgeport Hospital President and CEO William Jennings conveyed thanks and congratulations to employees at the dinner for their dedication and service on behalf of the senior staff and board of trustees. Medical Staff President Jairo Eduardo Castillo, MD, delivered a similar message from hospital physicians.

Bridgeport Hospital, part of Yale New Haven Health, is a 383-bed acute care hospital (plus 42 beds licensed to Yale New Haven Children's Hospital) serving parts of Fairfield and New Haven counties. The hospital admits more than 20,000 patients and receives nearly 300,000 outpatient treatments annually. The Connecticut Burn Center at Bridgeport Hospital is the only burn center in the state and one of only 64 verified burn centers in the United States.