

Contact: Carol Rubiano
212-580-9706

BETH ISRAEL NURSES WIN CITY-WIDE 1199SEIU/LEAGUE AND BEATRICE RENFIELD CIRCLE OF EXCELLENCE AWARDS

May 24, 2010 -- Two nurses from Beth Israel Medical Center – Barbara Ravida, MSN, RNC, ANP-BC, and Edward Eason, RN, are the winners of the coveted 2010 Nurse of Distinction and Novice Nurse awards presented annually by 1199SEIU/League of Voluntary Hospitals and Homes. Following a stiff competition among nominees from hospitals and nursing homes in the New York Metro area, the winners were announced at a gala celebration during Nurses Week held at the New York Hilton on Tuesday, May 11th.

“We congratulate all the nominees and winners of 1199SEIU/League and Beth Israel’s Beatrice Renfield Circle of Excellence awards,” said VP of Patient Care Services and Chief Nursing Officer Mary Walsh, MSN, RN. “They exemplify the kind of nurses that Beth Israel has been cultivating and nurturing throughout its history.”

Ms. Ravida is the team leader of the Petrie Division’s Cardiac Progressive Care Unit and a two-time individual winner for excellence in patient centered care at the annual Beatrice Renfield Circle of Excellence awarded by Beth Israel’s nursing division. Her unit received this year’s Renfield award for excellence in multidisciplinary team collaboration. She helped design the winning nursing poster for a screen saver for the unit’s computers on wheels (COWS) featuring reminders about handwashing, pain assessment and checking of code cart.

“It was an unexpected honor and very humbling to receive the first 1199SEIU League Nurse of Distinction award for Beth Israel,” said Ms. Ravida, a nurse of 25 years who graduated from the Philips Beth Israel School of Nursing and teaches at the Hunter Bellevue School of Nursing. “When I was a new nurse, my primary goal was to safely care for patients and to do no harm and now that I’ve had more experience, I have also made a commitment to educating the next generation of nurses who will care for people like me,” she added.

In addition to the 1199SEIU League award, Edward Eason, RN, a nurse at Beth Israel Medical Center—Kings Highway Division (KHD) is the Beatrice Renfield “Novice Nurse” winner of the Circle of Excellence award. The 31-year-old recent convert to nursing worked in publishing and various other jobs after receiving a degree in communications from Hofstra University. He came to nursing after working as patient care assistant at St. Francis Hospital which induced him to enroll at Nassau Community College School of Nursing.

“My mother has been an RN for 30+ years and I think nursing was always in the back of my head as what I should be doing as well,” said Mr. Eason, who works with geriatric and ventilator patients. “My mother is my inspiration and it is her example that I try to follow in my own work. I love every aspect of nursing – the caring, the medicine, the science.”

The novice nurse added, “Nursing provokes me to be more thoughtful, caring, to examine the details and strive for perfection because you are caring for another human being; people in a position you or a loved one could be in at any moment. I tried other careers and I can say with 100 percent certainty that I will never again need to consider any other profession.”

“Ed was nominated for this award by his peers because he is clearly a highly motivated and very caring individual,” said KHD VP for Patient Care Services Marie Flordeliza, RN, BSN, MHA, CCRN. “He is very attentive to his patients and works well with his fellow nurses. If nursing can be in one’s blood it is certainly in this young man’s. He is an inspiration to others who may still be seeking the job of their dreams.”

Other winners of the 2010 Beatrice Renfield Circle of Excellence Awards are: Gail Buccellato, RN, Maria Cruz, RN, Evelyn Dominguez, RN, and Rose Otero, RN, all from the Petrie Division who won for Excellence in Patient Centered Care; Sara Lopez-Rivera, RN, also of Petrie, for Excellence in Patient Centered Care by a Preceptor; and Redempcion Asuncion, RN, Kings Highway Division, for Excellence in Nursing Leadership.

“Beth Israel is proud to have nurses like Ms. Ravida and Mr. Eason and the other nominees and winners of Beth Israel’s Beatrice Renfield Circle of Excellence Awards,” said Harris M. Nagler, MD, president, Beth Israel Medical Center. “They represent the kind of patient care practice and professionalism that ensure the best outcomes for patients. We are gratified by their peers’ recognition of their extraordinary work, skills and dedication.”