

News Release

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Bluewater Health Honours Staff, Professional Staff & Volunteers

SARNIA & PETROLIA – April 27, 2018 – Bluewater Health staff, professional staff and volunteers were celebrated at Bluewater Health’s Annual Recognition Ceremony on Thursday, April 26 at the Dante Club in Sarnia.

In total 318 staff, professional staff and volunteers were recognized for a service anniversary from five to 60 years (in five year increments), and the careers of 54 retirees were honoured.

“We are extremely proud to celebrate the service and contributions of our staff, professional staff and volunteers,” said Mike Lapaine, President and CEO “As valuable and valued members of our hospital team, their focus on quality patient and family-centred care for the Sarnia-Lambton community is unwavering. Every day, I am inspired by the outstanding commitment to healthcare that I see in this organization.”

This year, three individuals were recognized for 40 years of service: Debbie Freeman, CEEH Administration; Barb Johnson, Rehabilitation; and Anne Reid, Telemetry Medicine unit. Dr. Frank Riedl was honoured for 50 years of service, and Children’s Auxiliary member and supportive care volunteer Jean Paisley for 60 years.

Bluewater Health’s Bridging Excellence Awards recipients were also announced as part of the recognition event. These awards honour individuals and teams for their contribution, dedication and commitment to excellence while delivering exemplary healthcare to the Sarnia-Lambton community. The recipients of the 8th annual Bridging Excellence Awards are:

Values Awards

The category is based on the demonstrated values of Compassion, Accountability, Respect and Excellence (CARE).

The volunteer recipient of the Values Award is **Dan Edwards**. Dan is a volunteer Bluewater Health Foundation Board member, has helped plan the annual gala and was instrumental in this year’s fully accessible Dream Home design. In his Foundation and community work, he represents Bluewater Health’s values and champions the care provided to those in need by staff, physicians and volunteers.

This year’s staff recipient of the Values Award is **Carlo Olivotto**. As Senior Biomedical Technologist, Carlo assists frontline staff by advocating for them when it comes time for equipment procurement through the capital process. Carlo understands the needs of the clinical teams, and the importance of reliable equipment for patient care. His compassion extends to the staff and physicians as well as the patients we all serve and he is a great example of the values of compassion, accountability, respect and excellence.

Vision Award

The Vision Award recognizes team excellence. To be considered, the team must represent an extraordinary orientation towards service to others through Bluewater Health’s Vision, Exceptional Care – Exceptional People – Exceptional Relationships.

This year's Vision Award recipient is the **Paramedic Program Team**. The Paramedic Program team began its work in Spring 2017, collaborating with the County of Lambton and community health-links partners on the Sarnia-Lambton Community Paramedic Program. Its goal is to keep frequent users of the Emergency Department at home with resources, improve access to the ED and improve access to ambulances for Sarnia-Lambton. This program appropriately addresses the target group's healthcare needs in the comfort of their home, and increases their satisfaction and overall well-being.

Mission Award

The Mission Award is for an individual (staff, physician or volunteer) who demonstrates an extraordinary, recognized energy in the way he or she lives Bluewater Health's Mission: We create exemplary healthcare experiences with patients and families every time.

This year's Mission Award is **Deb Croteau**. As Director of Diagnostic Services Deb serves on multiple committees to better understand and support the complexity of other departments and to increase exceptional care experiences. By doing so, Deb has become a resource person across the hospital. Deb takes the initiative to build relationships with staff and celebrates their accomplishments whether they are work-related or personal, acknowledging when someone goes "the extra mile" for patients or co-workers.

"The individuals and teams recognized with a Bridging Excellence Award go above and beyond everyday expectations to deliver on our Mission, Vision and Values with exemplary care and caring," said Wayne Pease, Board Chair. "The Board of Directors is proud to recognize these deserving recipients for their dedication and outstanding achievements. The strength of Bluewater Health is its people, and by their example, these award recipients set the bar for performance excellence."

Bridging Excellence Awards were presented at last night's Recognition Ceremony where recipients received a bursary to continue their education and learning, a crystal keepsake award, and a copy of the video in which they were featured. To view the finalist videos on YouTube, please visit www.youtube.com/bluewaterhealth.

Bluewater Health, with locations in Sarnia and Petrolia, cares for the residents of Sarnia-Lambton. With close to 2,500 staff, Professional Staff and volunteers, Bluewater Health provides an array of specialized acute, complex continuing care, allied health and ambulatory care services. Bluewater Health's Mission is: *We create exemplary healthcare experiences with patients and families every time*. For more information about Bluewater Health, visit www.bluewaterhealth.ca or follow us on Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn, Twitter and YouTube.

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