Press Release

Staff celebrated at annual WOW! Awards Gala Ceremony

THE fantastic care and dedication shown by staff across Hampshire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust was celebrated during the Trust’s fifth annual WOW! Awards Gala Ceremony.

100 WOW! Award winners from Basingstoke and North Hampshire Hospital, Royal Hampshire County Hospital, in Winchester, and Andover War Memorial Hospital were selected to attend a special ceremony at Holiday Inn Winchester last night (Tuesday 6 February).

The event saw the Trust’s overall WOW! winners for the year announced, with awards handed out in nine different categories.

Community midwife Lucy Edwards, who is based at Basingstoke hospital, claimed the Family and Clinical Support Services Division Award for her care of a woman who was diagnosed with cancer during the course of two pregnancies.

Not only did Lucy support the woman through her challenging pregnancies and ensure that all relevant staff were aware of her condition, she made sure she was available to support the woman through labour by going into the hospital during a period of annual leave and also arranged for the family to receive donated breast milk.

Lucy said: “I adored caring for this woman, so coming in when I should have been on annual leave to help her deliver her baby was something that I didn’t think twice about. It was important to both of us that I provided continuity of care for her, to make sure she was happy and comfortable.

“This family mean a huge amount to me. I spent a lot of time with them because of their specific situation and even though the babies have been born, I still keep in touch with them.

“I did not expect to win a WOW! Award in the first place, let alone win the annual divisional award. I’m incredibly proud and it is a real highlight of my career so far.”

Dan Spacagna, a porter who works at Winchester hospital, picked up two awards. He won the individual prize from the Rotary Club of Winchester and the Corporate Services Division Award after using his CPR skills to save the life of colleague, John Bauldry, who had suffered a cardiac arrest, keeping him alive during the time it took the emergency medical team to arrive on the scene.

“I’m over the moon,” Dan said. “I was delighted just to be invited to this event, so I’m really happy to have won two awards.

“The response to what happened that night from everyone in the Trust has been lovely and the most important thing is that John is back fighting fit now. I’m really grateful that I went on a first aid course so I knew what to do and that things panned out the way they did.”

There were two winners of The Chairman’s Award. Physiotherapist Rebecca Hawkins claimed the individual award, with E1 Ward at Basingstoke hospital taking the team prize.
Rebecca, who is based at Basingstoke and Alton Cardiac Rehabilitation Centre, in Alton, was rewarded for the “friendly and uplifting” way she cared for a patient with angina, having a “profound, positive impact” on his life.

Rebecca said: “I did not expect this at all and am a bit overwhelmed by the whole thing. We’ve received a few WOW! nominations as a team, but this was the one that made me quite emotional because it was so personal.

“I was able to develop a really close bond with this particular patient. He was so desperate to take part in a particular course with Southampton FC, but unfortunately just wasn’t going to be ready to take part, so I phoned up the club and arranged for him to go on a course further down the line.”

The entire team on E1 Ward, including doctors, nurses, cleaning staff and porters, won for the way they nursed a very ill woman back to health over the course of seven weeks. The nomination came from the patient’s husband, who was also grateful for the compassion shown towards him by staff on the ward during this difficult time.

Becky Hutchinson, clinical matron on E1 Ward, said: “I’m immensely proud of the whole team. It was a real shock when we heard our name read out, but it’s nice for the team to get this recognition for the outstanding work they do.

“They are a lovely couple and unfortunately the lady was very poorly. We cared for her but, as with all our patients, it’s also important to look after their loved ones by taking time to explain things and listen to their concerns.”

Community midwife, Kathryn Weymouth, who is based at Andover, claimed the Rotary Club of Andover award for providing help and reassurance to a new mum who had been having trouble breastfeeding.

Other winners on the night included the critical care team at Winchester hospital, who were winners for their care of a patient with a life-threatening stomach condition, and diabetic nurse Gill Lloyd, who won a special prize awarded by the WOW! Awards for the way she has looked after a particular patient over the course of 20 years.

Last year, the Trust received 3,024 WOW! nominations for staff who had made a difference to someone by exceeding expectations or going the extra mile.

Staff can be nominated for a WOW! Award by colleagues, patients or visitors throughout the year, with a handful of winners selected by the trust’s public governors each month.

Liz Padmore, chairman of Hampshire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, said: “As chairman of our organisation I see and hear about the many great examples of the positive difference our staff make to patients, their families, their friends and to each other.

“I am delighted to see you get the recognition you deserve. I know many of you here tonight consider what you do to be all in a day’s work and are modest about your achievements, but I encourage you to be proud of your contribution.”

Guest speaker for the evening was doctor, broadcaster and comedian Dr Phil Hammond. He gave his irreverent take on healthcare, talking about what staff working in hospitals can learn from the Clangers and the importance of caring for people with pleasure, passion and purpose.

Anna O’Brien from Radio Winchester compered the evening, which was attended by special guests the Mayor of Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council, the Mayor of Test Valley and the Mayor of Winchester as well as representatives from the Rotary clubs of Andover, Basingstoke and Winchester.
Roll of Honour
Chairman’s Award (team) – E1 Ward, Basingstoke and North Hampshire Hospital
Chairman’s Award (individual) – Rebecca Hawkins, physiotherapist based at Basingstoke and Alton Cardiac Rehabilitation Centre
Runners-up – Valentine Chiguvare, clinical matron, C3 Ward, Basingstoke and North Hampshire Hospital; Bee Messingham, healthcare assistant, theatres, Basingstoke and North Hampshire Hospital

Rotary Club of Basingstoke Deane Award (Team) – Dementia team
Rotary Club of Basingstoke Deane Award (Individual) – Jonathan Domingo, acute oncology practitioner, Basing Unit, Basingstoke and North Hampshire Hospital

Rotary Club of Winchester Award (Team) – IT Department
Rotary Club of Winchester Award (Individual) – Dan Spacagna, porter, Royal Hampshire County Hospital

Rotary Club of Andover Award – Kathryn Weymouth, community midwife, Andover War Memorial Hospital

The WOW! Awards – Gill Lloyd, diabetes nurse specialist, Basingstoke and North Hampshire Hospital
Special commendation – Mortuary team, Royal Hampshire County Hospital

Corporate Services Award – Dan Spacagna, porter, Royal Hampshire County Hospital
Family and Clinical Support Services Award – Lucy Edwards, community midwife, Basingstoke and North Hampshire Hospital
Medical Services Award – Site team
Surgical Services Award – Critical care team, Royal Hampshire County Hospital

ENDS

PHOTO – WOW! Awards Annual Gala Ceremony winners celebrate their success with Dr Phil Hammond

Notes to Editors

1. Hampshire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust provides hospital services to a population of approximately 570,000 people in Hampshire and parts of West Berkshire.
2. HHFT has around 6,000 staff and a turnover of £385million a year.
3. HHFT delivers one hospital service across multiple locations including its own hospitals, Andover War Memorial Hospital, Basingstoke and North Hampshire Hospital and Royal Hampshire County Hospital in Winchester. It also provides outpatient and assessment services from Bordon and Alton community hospitals.
4. As a Foundation Trust, HHFT is accountable to the local community through a system of local ownership with members and elected governors. HHFT has around 18,000 staff and public members. Foundation Trusts are free from central government control and can reinvest any surplus to develop clinical services. They are authorised and regulated by NHS Improvement, an independent regulator.

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