



Visiting Nurse Association
of Central Jersey

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VNACJ NURSE WINS NATIONAL AWARD

Honored for providing exceptional “physical, mental and social comfort” to seniors

SEA GIRT, NEW JERSEY, October 28, 2009— Andrea “Andi” Parkhill, RN, BSN, resident of Sea Girt and staff nurse at Visiting Nurse Association of Central Jersey was awarded the Inspired Comfort Award by Cherokee Uniforms for improving the living conditions and emotional health of local senior citizens by devoting countless hours as well as her personal funds to bring about change. Ms. Parkhill is one of just six winners nationwide in 2009.

Parkhill received the Top National prize in the award’s registered nurse category for her unrelenting dedication to the health, safety and wellbeing of senior citizens in her community.

The award is granted by Cherokee Uniforms to recognize nurses and other non-physician healthcare professionals who demonstrate exceptional service, sacrifice and innovation and have a positive impact on others’ lives. This is the seventh year the leading designer and manufacturer of healthcare apparel has honored inspirational caregivers.

Years of nursing practice have enabled Parkhill to quickly assess a situation and mobilize the community resources needed to find solutions. Parkhill considers her patients’ physical, mental and social condition when creating a plan of treatment. Sometimes this comes at a significant sacrifice of personal time and expense, often far exceeding the expectations of anyone in her job. She began treating an elderly woman who, against the doctor’s advice, checked herself out of the hospital in order to return home to care for her cats. While visiting the woman, Parkhill discovered unsafe living conditions. She not only took the initiative to thoroughly clean and refurbish the apartment, she took the cats to a veterinarian and personally paid for their care and purchased clothes for the woman as a gift.

While working with the patient, Parkhill noticed that other residents of the housing complex exhibited signs of grief and depression. She collaborated with a social worker to address underlying issues of concern, including the loss of friends and access to transportation and other necessary everyday services. The collaboration was so successful that the program is being expanded.

“Andi Parkhill’s remarkable patience, compassion, and generosity of spirit makes the lives of seniors in her community safer and happier,” says Wendell Mobley, director of Cherokee’s scholarship and awards programs. “Her ability to adapt treatment to the total needs of a patient and her willingness to give so much of her time when others might have given up show the life-changing difference a nurse can make.”

Kathy Rosa,, RN, Andi’s clinical manager stated, “Andi demonstrates the essence of exceptional service by providing a comprehensive, timely and proactive approach to meeting the client’s

needs. She sees the entire picture clearly and frames the processes and outcomes of her service with care, compassion and communication.”

Since the Cherokee Inspired Comfort Award was established in 2003, more than 7,000 healthcare professionals have been nominated in the Registered Nurse, Advanced Practice Nurse, Licensed Practical Nurse/Licensed Vocational Nurse, Student Nurse and Non-Physician Healthcare Professional categories. A panel of Cherokee representatives and past Cherokee Inspired Comfort Award recipients evaluates nominations and grants the awards.

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About VNA of Central Jersey

Visiting Nurse Association of Central Jersey, now in its 97th year of service, is a nonprofit provider of in-home health care and hospice services and the largest VNA in the State. The organization offers extensive community-based health and wellness services across New Jersey and serves more than 105,000 people each year.

About Cherokee

Cherokee Uniforms, Uniforms and Cherokee Footwear are leading brands in healthcare apparel, recognized for helping to foster a warmer, friendlier, more comfortable environment for healthcare workers and their patients. For more information, visit www.CherokeeUniforms.com.