

September 2019 – Patty Buntje, LPN

Patty was nominated by a patient who was helping her teenaged son cope with anxiety and depression. “Patty doted over my son, laughed at his oddball jokes and made him comfortable and at ease while he was there,” the nomination read. “This is such a vital part of teens in mental health crisis! Patty helped Dr. Grimes to get my son to open up and try medication as an option.” Later in the nomination, the mother wrote: “She also made me (as a nervous mom in the waiting room) at ease with the fact that my son was getting excellent, thorough care. Her competence, confidence, cheerfulness and empathy make her the best nurse I have ever had! Thanks for having her on staff!”

October 2020 - Sonia Mordh, RN

Sonia’s nomination: “Sonia was amazing to have as a nurse when I was in recovery after having my first baby. She was so sweet, and it was evident she was intent on providing the best care for both my baby and I. Sonia was so helpful with teaching us and helping us navigate the first day with a newborn. She was a big help with breastfeeding, diaper changes and everything in between! She always made sure baby, dad and I were comfortable. It was clear that Sonia was passionate about her job and providing the best patient care possible!”

April 2021 – Ayesha Bhogadia, RN

Here is one of Ayesha’s nominations: “I was diagnosed with colon cancer and thought I beat it. A year ago, I was diagnosed with metastatic colorectal cancer that pretty much took over my body. To make it easier on my family, I transferred all my care to Tri-County Health Care. The biggest part of that was coming to Ambulatory Care for my Chemo treatments. Now mind you, I am not the easiest person to get along with, and sometimes I am not very patient with those charged with my care. Ayesha made my treatments and the time that I had to spend in treatment bearable. She played along with my humor and made me feel like she and her staff really cared and were not just there to check the box and do a job. Ayesha gave me her personal telephone number and encouraged me to call her at any time. She checked in on me often. She made sure my family was always in the know calling my sister-in-law when I did not answer the phone (which I commonly did not). She would give me instructions and then call the sister-in-law just in case I forgot or did not get the full message. The kindness and compassion that she showed to me made my journey so much more bearable. When I ended up in your ER (which I often did), she was there. When I ended up in the hospital, whether at Tri-County or another one, she was there. Either in person or on the phone. When I was not being honest with Dr. Swenson at my appointments, she made sure to stop the conversation and ensure he had the full story. To know she cared so much made it much easier for me to continue my treatments as long as I did. The relationship that she had with my care team made my time there so much easier. In the end, I chose to stop my treatments. Ayesha made sure me and my family were thoroughly educated on the pros and cons of stopping treatment. I no longer see Ayesha like I did in the past, but we will never forget the kindness, compassion, and humor she gave me during my time in her care. Until my time on this earth has ended, I will forever be grateful to and thankful for Ayesha and her team.”

March 2022 - Sarah Bragg, RN

Sarah's nomination: "I got COVID in September and by early October I couldn't take it anymore and drove myself to Tri-County Hospital in Wadena. My oxygen was very low, as I also got pneumonia. They wanted me to go to St. Cloud and get put on a ventilator and I refused.

Sarah watched me faithfully and helped me breathe, adjusted my oxygen and helped me relax. She saved my life and definitely my sanity. I didn't ask her last name, but Sarah with blonde hair – loves peanut butter.

I can truly say as sick as I was that I met an angel when I went to Tri-County. Sarah is an amazing, talented woman! Thank you for letting me be blessed to have her!"