

# GREATER GEORGETOWN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

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## Bayhealth Names Health Educator of the Year

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**When you think about librarians, you may** think about the wizened, bespectacled, white-haired woman who testily shushes noisy library patrons and exudes all the personality of the Dewey Decimal System.

But that's before you meet Nadine Pieniaszek (pronounced "pen-a-zak").

Bubbly and radiant, Pieniaszek is not your "typical" librarian. As the Bayhealth Medical Center Librarian and Continuing Medical Education (CME) Coordinator, Pieniaszek, MLS, provides physicians and clinical staff with the most current and reliable medical information. And, she devotes herself fully to library patrons so they can become independent in navigating the library universe.

"(Nadine) is an educator in the truest sense of the word. She doesn't just give you information, but gives you the tools you need to educate yourself. She's one of the people behind the scenes who quietly helps you do your job better," said Bayhealth Diagnostic Imaging Nurse Kim Ford, RN, BSN, CRN, SANE.

Thanks to a nomination from Ford, Pieniaszek was recently named the Bayhealth Health Educator of the Year. During a modest ceremony in early November, Pieniaszek humbly accepted the Geraldine Webb-Palladino Award, named after the long-time Kent General Hospital nurse who passed away in 1993. The other health educator nominees included Andrea Holecek (Clinical Nurse Specialist -4A); Cathy Moore (Clinical Nurse Specialist - CV/SICU); Ludy Rotchford (Clinical Practice Leader - IMC); Kim Ford (Diagnostic Imaging Nurse); Paula Hess (Cancer Institute); Diane Fithian (Care Management); Tracy Sinibaldi (Registered Dietitian); Laura Ryan (Clinical Manager - Radiation Oncology); Jeanne Nichols-Willey (Clinical Practice Leader - 1A); Vivian Hendricks (Clinical Practice Leader - 3N, 3W & 3E); Angel Dewey (Clinical Practice Leader - ICU).

Ford says Pieniaszek was invaluable in helping the Diagnostic Imaging Department research "evidence-based practice" for implementation into Diagnostic Imaging's nursing protocols. Under the evidence-based system, all nursing practices must be supported by empirical data proving that the practice produces the best clinical outcomes.

"While (Nadine) doesn't directly treat patients, she's helped us save lives by giving us the information we need to ensure the highest quality and the lowest rate of complications and mortality," said Ford.

And, when Pieniaszek isn't helping nurses and doctors find information, she is helping the hospital administration implement key nursing initiatives. Pieniaszek serves on the Magnet Nursing Research Council and the Bayhealth-Planetree "Access to Information Team." With Pieniaszek's guidance, the Access to Information Team helped install family resource centers around the hospital so that patients and their families have access to computer terminals and the World Wide Web. As a member of the Magnet Nursing Research Council, she helped facilitate the Nursing Research Conference and also assists with the Journal Club Task Force and the Education Publication Task Force. As the CME Coordinator, Pieniaszek oversees monthly medical lectures provided for Bayhealth physicians. Pieniaszek is a member of the Medical Library Association, the Delaware Library Association, and the DELMIRA and DEVIC consortiums. She enjoys networking with other librarians and keeping current with the technological changes in libraries.

"(Nadine's) passion for educating healthcare professionals and teaching them the skills they need to access reliable, updated information for their patients is part of what allows the Bayhealth professional staff to provide the best quality care for our community," said Ford.

It's all a part of a more than 20 year track record for Bayhealth's "star" librarian. After earning her Masters in Library Science (MLS), Pieniaszek began service to Kent General Hospital in 1984 as a contract librarian and then became a staff librarian in 1990. Now, nearly two decades later, she oversees busy libraries at both Kent General and Milford Memorial Hospitals. She gives patients, doctors and clinical staff access to more than 400 online libraries. And, like any good reference librarian, Pieniaszek can still find information on everything from aneurysmal bone cysts to zygomycosis.

"You've got questions? I've got the answers," Pieniaszek said with a wink.



**Top Educators:** The Bayhealth 2009 Health Educator of the Year Nadine Pieniaszek (center, in red) is flanked by the 2009 Health Educator of the Year nominees. Front row, left to right: Jeanne Nichols-Willey; Diane Fithian; Nadine Pieniaszek; Andrea Holecek; Tracy Sinibaldi; Back row, left to right: Kim Ford, Paula Hess, Laura Ryan. Nominees not pictured: Angel Dewey, Cathy Moore Vivian Hendricks, Ludy Rotchford.

Bayhealth Medical Center's mission is to improve the health status of all members of the Bayhealth community. Central and Southern Delaware's largest healthcare system, Bayhealth is comprised of Kent General and Milford Memorial Hospitals, Middletown Medical Center and numerous satellite facilities. Bayhealth was ranked Best in Delaware for Cardiac Surgery by HealthGrades 2008 and was recognized by J.D. Power and Associates for the second year in a row for providing an "Outstanding Inpatient Experience." Bayhealth is a technologically advanced not-for-profit healthcare system employing over 2,900 with a medical staff of 449 physicians. Bayhealth is a member of the Penn Cancer Network and an affiliate of Penn Medicine - Penn Cardiac Care. In the 2008 fiscal year,

Bayhealth recorded 73,189 emergency department visits, 17,448 patients admitted to beds and 2,454 births. Last year, as part of its mission, Bayhealth provided more than \$30.9 million in unreimbursed care to patients. A not-for-profit organization, Bayhealth supports our community through services or programs for the uninsured, underserved and for the broader community.

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