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Society news

Events, milestones and celebrations occur every day within the Good Samaritan Society. Here, you can read [all Society news](#), [corporate news](#), [center news](#) or [center news highlights](#).

Regional group recognizes the work of staff member Dawn Wurst

Jun 18, 2012

(Kissimmee, Fla.) – Licensed practical nurse Dawn Wurst was recently named first runner-up as LPN of the Year by the Greater Orlando Chapter of the Florida Directors of Nursing Administration. She is a staff member in the memory care unit at Good Samaritan Society – Kissimmee Village's healthcare center.

Earlier this year, Dawn was named the Village's Healthcare Staff Member of the Year and nominated for the Good Samaritan Society Staff Member of the Year.



Dawn Wurst

More than 100 people were nominated for the Greater Orlando award. Although she wasn't aware of it, Dawn was the nominee for Kissimmee Village. She attended the convention and probably thought something was "fishy" when her husband, Roland, arrived for the awards luncheon. Village Executive Director Luann Foos, Campus Administrator Lee Tinkey and Director of Nursing Debbie Coy were all in the large audience.

During her interview and comment opportunities, Dawn talked about the people who impacted her life. She remembered Ben, a 99-year-old man with no family and a diagnosis of Alzheimer's disease. She had cared for him in a hospital setting while working another nurse's shift. Dawn says she connected with Ben and knew then that she wanted to work with seniors.

During the same time, Dawn met a lovely woman in her 90's. The second relationship validated what Dawn already knew in her heart.

Dawn has been certified by the National Council of Certified Dementia Practitioners. To be eligible, the candidate must have a minimum of five years experience in the care of residents with Alzheimer's disease or other dementia. To maintain her certification, she must achieve 24 credits of continuing education each year.

- > Good Samaritan Society joins Healthy Aging and Independent Living (HAIL) Lab Consortium
- > Research project seeks participants

"This will challenge me to keep current with information and education which I want to do, so I can give caregivers the support they need," she says. Dawn facilitates a family support group and helps educate staff members in a gentle and encouraging manner.

Having worked for Good Samaritan Society – Kissimmee Village since 1988, Dawn says, "The Christian environment makes a difference at the end of the day. No matter who the person is, they are who they are. I do not want the disease to become the person."

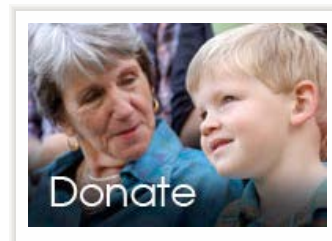
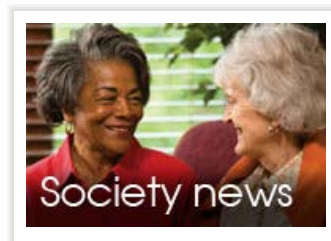
She brings a special passion to the job. "I love my residents, my patients. I love seeing them every day. I am truly blessed," she says.

Good Samaritan Society – Kissimmee Village is truly blessed to have Dawn Wurst, LPN, Certified Dementia Practitioner, as a staff member. She is dedicated to the Society's mission and to residents as she shares her ideas, love and artistic talents every day. Congratulations, Dawn.

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 Center homepage



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