



For Immediate Release

Contact:

The DAISY Foundation

Tena Barnes Carraher

(404) 285-9158

tenabarnescarraher@DAISYfoundation.org

DAISYfoundation.org

RECIPIENTS OF THE 2025 HEALTHIMPACT DAISY NURSE LEADER AWARD IN POLICY ANNOUNCED

March 2025 (Oakland, CA) – HealthImpact and The DAISY Foundation™ have announced the recipients of their annual DAISY Nurse Leader Awards in Policy.

This award honors nurses and nurse-led teams whose work in policy advances compassionate care that improves the health of populations. One individual and three teams were selected by a national panel of healthcare policy experts.

The 2025 recipients are:

- **Joanne Hoertz, MSN, CRRN, of Brooks Rehabilitation** was selected for her involvement in continually helping to identify, research and provide strategies for workforce policy and solutions for nurses across the state of Florida. She acted on newly passed legislation to implement the Personal Care Attendant program to increase the number of direct care needed to safely staff overnight settings. Additionally, she established a partnership with Florida State College at Jacksonville to bring an onsite LPN training program to her facility. This innovative agreement with a local community college enabled the training required to put existing unlicensed healthcare assistants into a career development program. Her extensive work in serving on the Center for Independent Living board and various committee work, combined with putting legislation into action, has helped ensure a wide variety of patient populations across multiple socioeconomic status levels receive the care and resources needed.
- **The Arizona Association of Nurse Anesthesiology (AZANA)** are recognized for identifying the lack of anesthesia (CRNA) education and residency programs in Arizona and creating a policy to positively impact the provider shortage and ultimately the care to patients facing multiple delays or cancellations for elective surgeries or emergent surgeries. By creating a partnership

with the Arizona Board of Nursing (AZBON), they were able to obtain \$450,000 in legislative funds to support a Nurse Anesthesiology Residents (NARs) grant program. This program supports NAR retention and specialty clinical site creation within Arizona while also raising awareness and obtaining executive level support through dissemination of information, personal meetings and article publication. The long-term outcome of this initiative aims to ultimately increase retention after graduation and create a pipeline of new providers into all communities across the state. Seeing the value of this project, AZBON added an additional \$1M to the funds through national grants in an effort to further expand the scope of the initiative. Furthermore, in 2025, Senator Janae Shamp introduced a new bill (SB 1446) adding an additional \$3M with the intent to further expand and elevate this program. Ideally, this innovative model will serve as a blueprint for other states facing similar shortages and challenges.

- **The Emergency Department (ED) at Orlando Health Bayfront Hospital** is being recognized for breaking down the barriers to provide personalized, compassionate care and long-term solutions for patients suffering from opioid use disorder (OUD) and overdoses. In response to increased OUD cases, frequent readmissions, limited resources and the fast-paced environment of the ED they implemented the Pinellas Matters Program in collaboration with the Pinellas County Department of Health and Operation PAR. This program includes medication assisted treatment and on-site PEER counselors to create a comprehensive system that not only treats overdose emergencies but also provides long-term support for recovery. This program aims to bridge the gap between emergency care and ongoing addiction treatment. The team used community resources to address a public health crisis, and as a result has experienced significant increases in referral rates to recovery resources and a culture shift in the care approach of patients with OUD.
- **The Dialysis Team at Care Medical Company in Saudi Arabia** recognized that current dialysis meals led to patient dissatisfaction, sometimes leading them to order non-renal-compliant food from outside the facility. Nurse lead, Dania Alhijawi, RN, BSN, formed a team to explore ways to improve food options and patient satisfaction while maintaining renal diet requirements. The team developed a policy that included customized meal plans, a larger variety of food choices, comprehensive training and support, and monitoring and evaluation. The policy changes significantly improved patient satisfaction and multidisciplinary team adherence to dietary log compliance and assessment scores. The team successfully recognized dialysis

patients' challenges with their diets, formed a multidisciplinary team, and developed and implemented a comprehensive plan with successful compassionate care outcomes.

Said Bonnie Barnes, FAAN, Doctor of Humane Letters (h.c), Co-founder of The DAISY Foundation, “We are so proud to partner with Health**Impact** to elevate the nurses who drive compassionate care through policy. These special DAISY Awards align beautifully with DAISY’s mission to say thank you to nurses for caring with their hearts as well as their brains.”

Garrett Chan, PhD, APRN, FAAN, President and CEO of Health**Impact** added “It’s an honor to work with the DAISY Foundation to recognize and celebrate outstanding nurses who improve patient care and population health outcomes through compassionate care policy. We are committed, as DAISY, to acknowledging these incredible nurses and thanking them for their tireless and impactful work.”

The recipients will receive their awards during the AONL Advocacy Day event being held June 2nd- 3rd in Washington D.C.

About The DAISY Foundation

The DAISY Foundation is a not-for-profit organization, established in memory of J. Patrick Barnes, by members of his family. Patrick died at the age of 33 in late 1999 from complications of Idiopathic Thrombocytopenic Purpura (ITP), a little known but not uncommon auto-immune disease. (DAISY is an acronym for Diseases Attacking the Immune System.) The care Patrick and his family received from Nurses while he was ill inspired the creation of The DAISY Award® for Extraordinary Nurses, an evidenced-based means of providing Nurse recognition and thanking Nurses for making a profound difference in the lives of their patients and patient families.

In addition to the DAISY Award for Extraordinary Nurses, the Foundation expresses gratitude to the nursing profession internationally in over 7,000 healthcare facilities and schools of nursing with recognition programs for nurses wherever they practice, in whatever role they serve, and throughout their careers- from nursing student through lifetime achievement, and through several lines of research grant and evidence-based practice projects funding. More information is available at <http://DAISYfoundation.org>.

About Health**Impact**

Health**Impact** is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to transforming nursing to advance the health of Californians. Founded in 2001 as the designated state nursing workforce center for California, Health**Impact** has a strong and successful history in California and nationally in engaging diverse stakeholders addressing workforce issues, developing solutions, and implementing programs through collaborative effort. Working in partnership with leaders from academic institutions, health care providers that employ RNs, health care associations, funders, policy makers, and workforce

development boards, the scope of work has included focused effort addressing the supply, demand, and capability of the current and future nursing workforce. More information is available at <https://healthimpact.org/>

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