

State Organization honors hospital's Activities Director

Twila Burdette, activities director at Rockcastle Hospital and Respiratory Care Center, Inc., recently received an award from the Kentucky Speech and Hearing Association. The group honors individuals outside the profession who have been particularly supportive of either individuals with communicative handicaps or of the professions of speech-language pathology/audiology.

Linda Gregory, director of Speech Services at RHRCC, nominated Burdette because she is an advocate for hospital residents in the areas of swallowing and communication concerns.

"Twila is a very valuable part of the rehab team," Gregory said. "Her positive attitude encourages residents

to participate and interact with other residents, and she promotes communication with the residents and their families."

Burdette has been employed at Rockcastle Hospital for three-and-a-half years.

Rockcastle Hospital and Respiratory Care Center, Inc. is a not-for-profit community hospital, which is accredited by the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations. It operates inpatient and outpatient acute care programs, 60 long-term beds for ventilator-dependent patients, and a home health care service. The hospital was established in 1956 and treats patients from across Kentucky, Tennessee and several other states.



Dr. Kevin Rowe examines Justin Brown while Dr. Michael Hamilton observes.

Rowe to join Rockcastle Hospital Medical Arts

Another Rockcastle County native soon will open a medical office in the Rockcastle Hospital Medical Arts Building. Kevin Rowe, M.D., is completing his residency and will open his office in August. Dr. Rowe earned his medical degree from the University of Louisville.

As part of his family practice residency program, he has spent the past several weeks seeing patients with Dr. Michael Hamilton, working in the hospital Emergency Department and treating patients at Eastern Kentucky Family Practice in Hazard.

Both Dr. Hamilton and Dr. Rowe took advantage of the scholarship program offered by Rockcastle Hospital and Respiratory Care Center. The hospital provides tuition assistance to Rockcastle Countians who

want to pursue a medical career and agree to work in Mt. Vernon upon completing the program.

"The scholarship was definitely helpful," Dr. Rowe said. "As a medical student, you live on loans, and this made life a whole lot easier."

There are two other Rockcastle Countians taking advantage of the hospital's medical scholarship program at this time.

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Marvin E. Owens Home for Funerals and Citizens Bank receive Hospice Award

On Tuesday, May 22nd, Hospice Care Plus recognized those who go "above and beyond" to make hospice care possible in the community. A business or other group in each county served by Hospice receives the award each year. This year, the award for Rockcastle County was presented to the Marvin E. Owens Home for Funerals and Monuments. The award for Jackson County was given to Citizens Bank.

The awards were presented during the annual Volunteer Appreciation Dinner, held at the Folk Center in Berea. In attendance were Hospice Board Members, Volunteers, staff, guests and those who received an Above and Beyond Award. Entertainment for the evening was provided by Blue Skies Swing Band.

Although Mr. and Mrs. Owens had plans to attend, they were unexpectedly called to a death and could not be present to accept their award. Hospice CEO Gail McGillis accepted on their behalf and read their nomination to the audience. The nomination included praise for their "generous support of Hospice families." Mrs. McGillis specifically noted that they "take a special interest in helping our families not only with financial is-

suess, but with their grief as well. Your pleasant, compassionate care places families at ease during a difficult time." A Rockcastle County Hospice team member praised the Home by saying that "both the community and Hospice benefit from your presence."

Accepting the award for Citizens Bank was Keith Smith. Hospice CEO Gail McGillis read from the nomination which included praise for "your sponsorship of the Hospice Horse Show for the past four years. Your loyalty and support has gone above and beyond the usual sponsorship level." Mrs. McGillis also noted that Citizens Bank's support of the Horse Show "has not only helped raised much-needed funds for patients and families, but has also contributed to the event being chosen Horse Show of the Year for the past two years."

Hospice Care Plus is based in Berea and serves Estill, Jackson, Lee, Madison, Owsley and Rockcastle Counties. Hospice is a non-profit organization which provides care to those with terminal illness and their families, regardless of ability to pay. Volunteers are always needed. To learn more about volunteering, call 1-800-806-5492.



Twila Burdette, left, along with Linda Gregory

More than 20 complete 12 week walking program

The Rockcastle Health Department has completed the 12 week spring walking program. More than twenty participants have turned in their walking logs in which they recorded the dates and length of time or miles which they walked. Many of our walkers walked the required thirty minutes five days a week in both the fall and spring session. That's a lot of miles, walking and calories burned.

Brisk walking for at least thirty minutes is a great way to give your heart and lungs a workout. If done at

least three times a week it meets the standards of the FIT formula and is an inexpensive aerobic activity that doesn't require special skill or equipment like most other aerobic activities do.

Pictured are two of our faithful walkers, Sylvia Hayes and Stacy Gray. They walk almost daily at the Senior Citizens/Adult Day Center.

The Health Department Walking Program will resume in September. Watch the Signal for more details.



From left: Sylvia Hayes and Stacy Gray walked almost daily at the Senior Citizens/Adult Day Center.

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