



October 13, 2004

Personal Support Worker honoured with national award



Canadian Community Care Worker of the Year

Bonnie Sheldrake

Personal Support Worker,
Saint Elizabeth Health Care
Haldimand-Norfolk Service Delivery Centre

Dunnville, ON – Bonnie Sheldrake, a Personal Support Worker with Saint Elizabeth Health Care, has been named the sole winner of the 2004 Canadian Community Care Worker Award for making an outstanding contribution to her clients and community.

Bonnie is a highly-skilled and compassionate certified Personal Support Worker who carries a caseload that is palliative in nature. She has been employed as a Supportive Care Worker with Saint Elizabeth Health Care for four years and previously at The Red Cross for two years.

"Bonnie has a special gift and demonstrated ability to reach out and develop open, trusting relationships with vulnerable people amidst the most challenging circumstances," said Jodi Phillips, manager of Saint Elizabeth Health Care in Haldimand and Norfolk Counties. "This is just one of the many ways Bonnie's care and support makes a difference in people's lives."

Bonnie recently worked with a Palliative client who had a long history of mental illness. The client had great difficulty trusting people and was uncomfortable with physical contact. Bonnie was slowly able to establish a relationship with the client, building trust one visit at a time. The client had very low pain control but the relationship allowed Bonnie to offer increased comfort with turning or positioning, or just holding the client's hand during her final hours.

"I would like to thank Saint Elizabeth Health Care, those who nominated me for this very prestigious award, and the CACC for having such an opportunity," said Bonnie Sheldrake. "Of course, none of our work could be accomplished without the rest of the team. I would like to thank my colleagues, and most of all, the clients and their families that allow me to come into their homes and share this very intimate journey with them."

The 2004 Community Care Worker Award is sponsored and administered by the Canadian Association for Community Care (CACC). Criteria include extent of commitment; impact on clients and families; ability to meet a wide range of client and family needs; and participation in continuing education activities.

Established in 1908, Saint Elizabeth Health Care is a Canadian not-for-profit charitable organization that shares its talent and wisdom in the areas of direct service delivery, consultation and eSolutions, to support the transformation of care for health organizations and the people they serve.

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Would you like to accompany a Personal Support Worker on a home visit to learn more about their important role in your community? Join us in celebrating Community Support Month this October!

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