



Leona Hudson at the Quarterly Meeting where she was recognized for her thirty years of service.

Employee Honored for Three Decades of Caring.

As part of Oxford HealthCare's thirty year celebration, Leona Hudson was recognized for her thirty years of dedicated service during Oxford's quarterly meeting on Thursday, January 27, 2005. "I like to say I came with the first load of bricks," laughs Leona.

Leona moved to Springfield from Kansas, where she worked as an aide at a hospital for about twelve years. She has worked as an Aide at Oxford for the last thirty years. When asked about

the biggest difference between caring for someone in a hospital and caring for someone in their home, Leona explained that there were many days in the hospital when she had 16 to 18 patients to care for. "It's hard when you can't give the patients the care they deserve. With Oxford, my clients have never seemed happier to be at home. I know that's where they want to be."

"When I take care of a client, I treat them the way I would want my mother or father cared for."

"My clients have never seemed happier to be at home. I know that's where they want to be."

"I know that I help the families of clients too. They can leave the house for a little bit without worry—it gives them a sense of peace to know someone is there." Leona knows firsthand what some of the families go through. "We cared for my mother-in-law during the last year of her life. We used Oxford's services when we couldn't be there. It's the little things that you take for granted." Leona believes that her personal experience with home care has shaped her career. "It makes you understand more how people like to be treated. When I take care of a client, I treat them the way I would want my mother or father cared for. I had a client for eleven-and-a-half years and she was like a sister to me."

"I have no plans to retire. I've been at Oxford for 30 years, I think that speaks for itself."

When asked why she's been with Oxford for three decades, Leona explains, "I hope I make a difference in people's lives. When I'm out in my uniform, people will come up and give me compliments on Oxford—about how nice the people are. It's very positive and I enjoy working at Oxford, they fit in really well with my life. I enjoy taking care of people and I enjoy my clients. I have no plans to retire. I've been at Oxford for 30 years, I think that speaks for itself."



**Karen Thomas,
President of Oxford
HealthCare.**

*“We realize
it is a privilege
to care for people
in their homes.”*

Celebrating Thirty Years of Caring.

Oxford HealthCare was founded on compassion and a desire to help others. Now celebrating its thirtieth year, Oxford strives to meet the needs of people of all ages across southwest Missouri who need a helping hand by providing innovative services. Whether it’s a little help around the house or 24-hour nursing care, all home care resources and options are available with one phone call to Oxford. As the leader in the home care industry, Oxford was the first to develop this coordinated system which includes access to not only Oxford services, but all services available in the community. Oxford even established a Community Care Fund to assist clients with needs for which there is no funding source.

For the past two years, Oxford HealthCare has received recognition as the Ozarks Best Home Health Agency and Best Place to Work. “At Oxford, we strive to set the standard of excellence in home care,” explains

Karen Thomas, President of Oxford HealthCare. “We are one of only a few home care agencies in the area certified by the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO)—which accredits hospitals. Our goal is not to be the biggest, but the best. We are committed to those we serve, and our employees are compassionate individuals with a desire to make a difference in people’s lives. We realize it is a privilege to care for people in their homes.”

Oxford is also committed to providing the latest in home care technology and services. Last year, Oxford brought telemedicine to the Ozarks with the introduction of the HomMed Health Monitoring System. This technology is a great advantage to physicians, patients and their families. Recently, Oxford was ranked number one out of 195 agencies throughout the country in controlling hospitalizations, controlling emergent care use and improving activities of daily living with the HomMed system.

Through the years, Oxford has proved their commitment to assisting people in their homes. Perhaps Dixie, a client for the last six years, says it best, “I’m so thankful I chose Oxford. I don’t know what I would do without them.”



HomMed System

*“I’m so thankful I
chose Oxford. I don’t
know what I would
do without them”*



**Jean Blakely initiated a penny
collection for Oxford’s
Caring Basket Fund.**

Pennies Really Add Up for Oxford Caring Baskets.

Oxford HealthCare’s Caring Basket Fund recently received a donation from the Human Resources Department. Oxford’s Caring Baskets are stocked with food and various personal items.

Community Spotlight

The ALS Association—Improving Lives.

The ALS (Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis) Association Keith Worthington Chapter, works closely with Oxford HealthCare to assist ALS patients with their needs. ALS, commonly known as Lou Gehrig's disease, affects as many as 30,000 Americans at any given time. It is a neurodegenerative disease that commonly strikes people between the ages of 40 and 70—it can strike anyone, at anytime. Unfortunately, there is no known cure for ALS, which is why funds for research are so vital. The Keith Worthington Chapter does not charge for its services and relies solely on charitable contributions from individuals and businesses.

The Chapter provides comprehensive information for those newly diagnosed, as well as information for family and friends. Besides informational material, patients, their families and caregivers also receive individual consultations, equipment loan, a monthly newsletter, and access to a treatment/research center. The Chapter also facilitates eleven support group meetings throughout the area. These support groups provide a forum to share information and practical experience, a

safe place to share emotions and needs, an educational gathering spot where speakers and caregivers address subjects of major interest, and a place to witness firsthand the constant miracle of people continuing to live productive lives in spite of having ALS.

Just recently, the Association assisted an Oxford ALS patient in being evaluated for a new communication device that will allow the patient to speak by just using his eye movement. This device combines a type of laptop computer and a camera to track the eye movement and actually speak what the patient looks at on the computer screen. This type of cutting-edge technology is available in part due to the Chapter's partnership with the University of Kansas Medical Center on an ALSA Center, where an impressive professional multidisciplinary team provides patients with comprehensive evaluation and treatment plans designed to maximize their physical function and quality of life. For more information, please visit www.alsa-midwest.org.

Information provided by: The Keith Worthington Chapter of the ALS Association.

Each month, six baskets are organized and distributed to clients in need. Jean Blakely came up with a unique idea to raise money. She suggested that each department have a penny jar for employees to donate spare change. After three months, Jean collected the pennies—there were so many she had to wheel them out to her car! “It's proof that just a few cents a day can really make a difference,” states Jean. Oxford appreciates everyone's generous donation to the Fund.



Oxford Voted Ozarks Best.

Oxford HealthCare recently received several awards from the Springfield News-Leader's Best of the Ozarks—among the honors were Best Home Health Care Agency and Best Place to Work. Oxford has been named the Best Home Health Care Agency since the category's inception three years ago, and this is the second year in a row Oxford has been named the Best Place to Work. We are honored and would like to thank all of our clients, employees and friends for voting us the best.



Caring for You at Home.

3660 S. National, Ste. 300
P.O. Box 10939
Springfield, MO 65808-0939

PRSRT STD
US POSTAGE
PAID
SPRINGFIELD MO
PERMIT # 801

Oxford HealthCare is the leading provider of home care in southwest Missouri. Our staff takes a personal interest in those we serve, maintaining a commitment to excellence which is unrivaled in any profession.



Caring for You at Home.

Springfield: 417-883-7500
Joplin: 417-782-0111
1-800-749-6555
www.OxfordHealthCare.net



Not for profit.