

The logo for the Nebraska Hospital Association (NHA) features the letters "NHA" in a bold, white, sans-serif font on a dark blue background.The logo for Nebraska Hospitals features the words "NEBRASKA" and "HOSPITALS" stacked vertically in a bold, white, sans-serif font on a dark blue background.

For Immediate Release

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NHA honors Nebraska health care heroes with “The Caring Kind” award

LINCOLN - The Nebraska Hospital Association (NHA) recognized 83 Nebraska hospital employees for their exemplary service to health care by bestowing them with the organization’s prestigious The Caring Kind award.

For 45 years, The Caring Kind award has recognized Nebraska's most caring and compassionate health care heroes. This award honors outstanding health care employees who have demonstrated compassion for patients, cooperation with co-workers, and dedication to excellence in their job responsibilities.

“This award demonstrates the kindness, caring, dedication, and commitment these individuals make to their hospitals,” commented Jeremy Nordquist, President, NHA. “The Caring Kind award is a celebration of our Nebraska health care heroes and the extraordinary work they do each and every day to deliver top notch patient care in our hospitals.”

Hospitals across the state select one The Caring Kind award recipient from within their respective institutions to be recognized. Award winners were recognized at a special luncheon as part of the NHA Annual Convention on Friday, October 18, at the Embassy Suites Conference Center in La Vista. More than 2,800 caring, skilled and dedicated health care professionals have received this award since its inception in 1979.

The NHA congratulates The Caring Kind award recipients for 2024:

(See following pages for list of recipients)

Kristen Anderson
Mary Lanning Healthcare
Hastings

Jason Arington
Pawnee County Memorial Hospital
Pawnee City

Sarah Bauer
Jefferson Community Health & Life
Fairbury

Brianna Beam
Webster County Community Hospital
Red Cloud

Penny Befort
Thayer County Health Services
Hebron

Rev. Jennifer Bell
CHI Health Lakeside
Omaha

Chris Bitner
Cherry County Hospital
Valentine

David Braun
Community Hospital
McCook

Cindi Brestel
Phelps Memorial Health Center
Holdrege

Jennifer Brown
Chadron Community Hospital
Chadron

Susie Bruning
Bryan Medical Center
Lincoln

Marci Bunde
Bryan Heart
Lincoln

Dena Burkinshaw
West Holt Memorial Hospital
Atkinson

Terry Busch
Annie Jeffrey Memorial County Health Center
Osceola

Todd Crowley
CHI Health St. Elizabeth
Lincoln

Sabrina Darnell
CHI Health St. Mary's
Nebraska City

Erica Dorn
Franklin County Memorial Hospital
Franklin

Suzanne Doudney
Cozad Community Health System
Cozad

Michael Dowling
Lexington Regional Health Center
Lexington

Christopher Eberle
CHI Health CUMC-Bergan Mercy
Omaha

Jennifer Eitzmann
Brodstone Healthcare
Superior

Selene Espinoza
CHI Health Midlands
Papillion

Nicky Fleming
Columbus Community Hospital
Columbus

Linda Fowler
Regional West Medical Center
Scottsbluff

Rick Garcia
Boys Town National Research Hospital
Omaha

Kimberly Goff
Community Medical Center, Inc.
Falls City

Dr. Ruthri Goodwin
Madonna Rehabilitation Hospitals
Lincoln/Omaha

Chelle Green
Valley County Health System
Ord

Mariela Guevara-Alarcon
CHI Health Schuyler
Schuyler

Madison Hasenbank
Nemaha County Hospital
Auburn

Ronda Haumann
Jennie M. Melham Memorial Medical Center
Broken Bow

Kathy Heller
Rock County Hospital
Bassett

Kelly Henery
Osmond General Hospital
Osmond

Cari Hinrickson
Winnebago Comprehensive Healthcare System
Winnebago

Jamie Hruska
Kearney Regional Medical Center
Kearney

Charlene Hughes
Antelope Memorial Hospital
Neligh

Nathan Johnson
Methodist Hospital
Omaha

Jan Jones
Gordon Memorial Hospital
Gordon

Jennifer Kester
Faith Regional Health Services
Norfolk

Donna Kindler
Harlan County Health System
Alma

Stacy Kirchmann
Saunders Medical Center
Wahoo

Nicki Klein
Grand Island Regional Medical Center
Grand Island

Dani Koehler
Friend Community Healthcare System
Friend

Sharyn Kovacs
Kearney County Health Services
Minden

Paige Kreitman
Butler County Health
David City

Karinne Kulwicki
Tri Valley Health System
Cambridge

Elia Ledezma
Memorial Community Health, Inc.
Aurora

Jannine Liska
Memorial Health Care Systems
Seward

Claudia Lopez
Crete Area Medical Center
Crete

Juaquin Manzanares
Nebraska Medicine
Omaha

KC Merrihew
Garden County Health Services
Oshkosh

Coni Meyer
Avera Creighton Hospital
Creighton

Dawn Mills
CHI Health Nebraska Heart
Lincoln

Craig Morgan
Methodist Fremont Health
Fremont

Denise Moss
Johnson County Hospital
Tecumseh

Sally Neville
York General Hearststone
York

Heidi Nienhueser
Sidney Regional Medical Center
Sidney

Ashley O'Banion
Memorial Community Hospital & Health System
Blair

Stacey Petrachek
Box Butte General Hospital
Alliance

Carrie Petz
Franciscan Healthcare
West Point

Jennifer Price
CHI Health Immanuel
Omaha

Madeline Quinn
Children's Nebraska
Omaha

Linda Rahder
Avera St. Anthony's Hospital
O'Neill

Sue Rogers
Methodist Women's Hospital
Omaha

Katie Royce
OrthoNebraska
Omaha

Deb Saum
Gothenburg Health
Gothenburg

Courtney Schindler
Boone County Health Center
Albion

Chad Schock
CHI Health St. Francis
Grand Island

Amy Scott
CHI Health Plainview
Plainview

Shea Simmons
Great Plains Health
North Platte

Nick Sjuts
Pender Community Hospital
Pender

Justin Spaulding
CHI Health Good Samaritan
Kearney

John Steider
Fillmore County Hospital
Geneva

Roberta Swoboda
Ogallala Community Hospital
Ogallala

Jeff Van Winkle
Beatrice Community Hospital & Health Center
Beatrice

Wendy Vergil
Morrill County Community Hospital
Bridgeport

Devin Wanke
Providence Medical Center
Wayne

Jeannie Welke
Brown County Hospital
Ainsworth

Malinda Westfahl
Dundy County Hospital
Benkelman

Shelly Wilson
Syracuse Area Health
Syracuse

Kelli Wood
Howard County Medical Center
St. Paul

Shelly Yost
Henderson Health Care Services
Henderson

Elisa Zeiss
Merrick Medical Center
Central City

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