

# CleanMed 2008

Pittsburgh, PA • 20 May, 2008

## Stephanie Davis Waste Reduction Award and Scholarship

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With the death five years ago of Stephanie C. Davis, healthcare waste reduction and pollution prevention in healthcare lost a great and tireless champion. With the invaluable support of Environmental Health Fund, Stephanie's colleagues, friends and family have established this Award and Scholarship for CleanMed - to recognize and support those in health care organizations who struggle to "green" healthcare. CleanMed is honored to present our five award / scholarship recipients, selected through a competitive process, for their past accomplishments and their ambitious plans to continue healthcare waste reduction and pollution prevention in the healthcare sector.

### Stephanie Davis

As many of you know, Stephanie had a passion for the environment and she directed that passion to waste reduction in healthcare. At the start of her career, Stephanie worked as a garbage and recycling guru for the New York Sanitation bureau. Around the same time, she forged a partnership with the Brooklyn Botanical Garden, initiating a Garlic Day and causing the New York Times to dub her New York's garlic queen! Stephanie created her own consulting firm - Waste Reduction Remedies. She worked for several hospitals including Alta Bates-Summit Medical Center and Sutter Antioch Hospital - both in Northern California. Shortly before she became sick, Stephanie landed a dream job - working with the San Francisco Department of the Environment on healthcare pollution prevention. But Stephanie's energies could not be contained by a mere job. She published articles on waste reduction in both the peer-reviewed and the popular press; she volunteered to run conferences, speak at workshops and help her community. Stephanie also believed in CleanMed - and would be delighted to know that this award and scholarship are supporting healthcare staff committed to her passion: greening the healthcare system and safeguarding the public's health.

### 2008 Award Recipients

**Carol Chandler** has 28 years of experience in hospital-based nursing. She has worked at Shady Grove Adventist Hospital in several capacities, including orthopedic, post-anesthesia care, and staff development. Carol currently serves as the Service Excellence Coordinator at Shady Grove Adventist Hospital, focusing on the patient experience of receiving healthcare at the hospital. She works with employees throughout the hospital in order to educate and raise awareness of healthcare processes and issues. Carol developed a Green Team at Shady Grove Adventist Hospital, along with representatives from numerous departments, including pharmacy, radiology, environmental services, food services, materials management and nursing. The Green Team promotes good stewardship of resources throughout the hospital by educating staff and raising awareness of the medical waste stream and opportunities for conservation of resources. Stewardship education is now included in new employee orientation. Carol has a Bachelor of Arts in Health Psychology and a Masters of Science in Nursing Administration.

**Adelaida Gibson** applied to work at Metro West Medical Center in Natick, Massachusetts, in June 2003, after staying home for ten years to raise her children. With only a high school diploma and no college education, she began working in the kitchen as a Catering Coordinator. Less than a year later, Adelaida expressed interest in becoming the kitchen Supervisor and was granted the position. In 2005, she applied for a Patient Services Manager position. She began to take leadership classes, and received several certifications in the Healthcare Food Service areas. Adelaida was determined to continue her education in Food Service, so when the position of Assistant Director became available, she jumped at the opportunity. In five short years, she went from making lunches for doctors and administrative personnel to having lunches with doctors and members of the administration! She has joined several hospital committees including the Green Committee that focuses on implementing recycling in the hospitals, and has led the hospital in implementing a Rounding Training Program to help improve the hospital's patient satisfaction scores. Adelaida's goal is to continue educating herself as well as others on important issues in healthcare that she faces on a daily basis.

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**Josh Miller** graduated in 2005 from Aquinas College in Grand Rapids, Michigan, with a Bachelor of Science degree in Sustainable Business and Environmental Studies. His current efforts at Spectrum Health are focused on waste reduction, recycling, green purchasing, energy efficiency and staff education. Spectrum Health recently implemented programs including: a re-usable sharps container program at two of their seven hospitals, lighting upgrades at Butterworth Hospital and providing all staff with re-usable mugs to reduce disposable cup usage. Sustainability plans for the near future include expanding the recycling program system-wide, implementing biodegradable kitchenware into cafeterias, composting, developing a pharmaceutical waste management program, and developing a proper waste segregation education plan. Spectrum Health is also nearing completion of the Lemmen-Holton Cancer Pavilion, which is expected to receive LEED Silver certification.

**Ron Sanchez** is a graduate of Evergreen College. He was raised East Los Angeles, where the five cents he could earn turning in soda bottles for recycling “made it possible for me to survive.” Ron worked part time for a maintenance company in the late 1970’s and helped to start National Semiconductor’s recycling program. The company started with the basics; cardboard, computer print out paper, and confidential paper. He then went on to Advanced Micro Devices and helped add to the list of items the company recycled. Presently at Sequoia Hospital in Redwood City, California (a member of CHW), Ron has enlisted the help of all the clinical representatives for help in getting more items recycled, adding containers in the operating rooms for blue wrap and plastic. His ultimate goal is ZERO WASTE.

**Candace Thompson** has worked at Mercy Hospital since 1978, working her way up through the ranks to her present position as Environmental Services Manager. Mercy Hospital serves as headquarters for Mercy Health System, a not-for-profit, vertically integrated multi-specialty system that serves 64 locations in southern Wisconsin and northern Illinois. Candace oversees waste management activities for most of the facilities. Mercy Health System received the 2007 Malcom Baldrige National Quality Award. All three system hospitals have received H2E Environmental Excellence Awards, including Making Medicine Mercury Free, Partners for Change and Environmental Leadership Circle. Candace started the Waste & Environmental Management Committee which meets monthly to discuss opportunities. This group started with videotaped waste audits and has continued with initiatives such as reusable sharps containers, annual community mercury thermometer exchanges, fluid waste disposal systems and a green team called “Waste Watchers.” An intern will assist this summer with a more comprehensive, system-wide pharmaceutical waste program. Candace lives in rural Wisconsin where she and her husband recently built an Energy Star home with a geothermal heating/cooling system.

**Kathleen Visinski** is a part of the Environment of Care committee and a member of the Green Team at Connecticut Children’s Medical Center. These teams have instituted many changes at the facility including going mercury free, new lighting with electronic sensors, green cleaners, increased recycling of paper, plastic and cans, and working with the Institute Recycling Network (IRN). The Green Team is also working on an initiative to use paper in the cafeteria instead of Styrofoam. Kathleen is presently looking into DEHP-free IV bags and trying to determine a way to decrease the use of plastic isolation gowns. Last month, Kathleen worked with a colleague to plan an “Earth Day” initiative to raise environmental awareness throughout the hospital. The event had several stations set up including one on water, plastics, and recycling, organic foods, a jeopardy game, all natural ice cream from a local farm, and a raffle with five gifts to be raffled off. Each gift bag was a cloth shopping bag filled with various environmentally-friendly gifts including a stainless steel water bottle, coupons to an organic food store, safe fertilizer coupons and green cleaners. During the event, educational videos were played including Blue Vinyl and An Inconvenient Truth. As a member of the Green Team, Kathleen spoke at a conference at Connecticut’s legislature, discussing environmental issues and what CCMC is doing. The Team has also created a column called the “Green Corner” in the hospital newspaper. Topics include lead, safe cosmetics, plastics, and this coming spring issue will be about safe organic fertilizer and pesticides.