

AHE And Kimberly-Clark Announce Heart Of Healthcare Award Winners

Exceptional Environmental Services Technicians Honored for Infection Prevention Efforts during EXCHANGE 2013

INDIANAPOLIS and ROSWELL, Ga., Sept. 16, 2013 [/PRNewswire/](#) -- The Association for the Healthcare Environment (AHE), of the American Hospital Association (AHA), and Kimberly-Clark today announced the recipients of the second annual Heart of Healthcare Awards, honoring outstanding frontline environmental services technicians who make a difference for patients and residents across all care settings. The award is a component of the Heart of Healthcare campaign developed by AHE and Kimberly-Clark Professional, which recognizes and elevates the critical role that frontline environmental services technicians play in the healthcare environment.

"AHE congratulates all of the Heart of Healthcare honorees for their dedication to patients and hospitals," said Patti Costello, executive director, AHE. "We were thrilled to receive triple the number of nominations for this year's Heart of Healthcare Awards. Engagement in this campaign is a reflection of a growing awareness of and appreciation for the integral role environmental services departments play in supporting a culture of quality outcomes and patient safety satisfaction."

Heart of Healthcare Awards Recipients

Nominations were submitted by managers, supervisors, co-workers and members of other in-house departments in hospitals and long-term care facilities. A panel of AHE members reviewed all submissions and selected the winners.

First Place Awardee:

Jean Azor, floor care technician, St. Joseph's Hospitals, Tampa, Fla.

Jean Azor works in St. Joseph's Children's Hospital and in the Cancer Institute at St. Joseph's Hospital. In this role, Azor provides floor care services and ensures that patient rooms and high-touch objects are completely disinfected, helping to improve care for all patients at the hospital. In addition, Azor is vigilant in making sure that all caregivers in the unit follow proper personal protective equipment procedures.

While Azor's job description ends there, his role does not. With a lifelong desire to help others, Azor befriended a young cancer patient and supported him through months of chemotherapy, providing him comfort and distraction when he was sad or sick. Azor was recently recognized by the hospital board and administration as "team member of the month" for providing outstanding service and comfort to patients and was featured in a newspaper column about his friendship with the young patient.

"Jean never hesitates to help out when needed, and is exceptionally detailed and thorough with his cleaning, making him a key player in helping to prevent the spread of HAIs in our facility," said Doug Rothermel, director, environmental services, St. Joseph's Hospital. "He is also a leader among his peers and takes seriously his role in training new environmental services department team members. It is a pleasure to see Jean's achievements acknowledged by AHE and Kimberly-Clark, as he truly embodies the spirit of the Heart of Healthcare campaign."

Honorable Mentions:

- Annette Dejesus, housekeeping aide supervisor, James J. Peters VA Medical Center, Bronx, N.Y.
- Tammi Ulrey, environmental services technician, Skiff Medical Center, Newton, Iowa
- Rosemarie Shifflett, environmental services attendant, Fairfield Medical Center, Lancaster, Ohio

"We are excited to again team up with the Association for the Healthcare Environment to host the Heart of Healthcare Awards for the environmental services professionals who embrace the fundamentals of the program," said Richard Marriott, healthcare segment leader, Kimberly-Clark Professional. "Our hope is that the accomplishments of those recognized will inspire others to uphold infection prevention practices as a top priority, and that the healthcare community will have a deeper understanding, connection and appreciation for the role environmental services play in maintaining patient safety and satisfaction."

The nomination process for the 2013 Heart of Healthcare Awards will open in early 2014 at www.ahe.org. Nominees do not need to be AHE members to be nominated for the award.

Heart of Healthcare Campaign Toolkit

AHE and Kimberly-Clark are working together to provide environmental services professionals with the necessary tools for their continued education, training and recognition to help their facilities support their goals of reducing HAIs.

The Heart of Healthcare campaign education and recognition tools provide vital support for best practices in cleaning and disinfecting the environment. To address the ever changing hospital environment, AHE and Kimberly-Clark added new tools, which are available through the AHE website. Most can be customized to include the logo of the healthcare facility utilizing the materials. The following materials are included:

- Cleaning and disinfecting guide, in English and in Spanish
- In-room cleaning checklist
- Patient discharge card
- Employee recognition certificate
- Checklist with handy references to cleaning and disinfecting patient rooms
- Environmental services recognition posters for public display
- Room calling cards indicating a patient room has been cleaned

For more information on the campaign, please visit www.ahe.org.

About AHE

AHE represents, defines, and advances the professionals responsible for care of the healthcare environment to ensure quality outcomes and healthy communities. A professional membership group of the American Hospital Association, AHE serves more than 2,000 members. AHE provides education, networking and recognition for personal and professional achievements as well as collaboration with the AHA on public policy and advocacy issues related to the health care environment. Visit www.ahe.org for additional information.

About Kimberly-Clark Professional

Kimberly-Clark Professional partners with businesses to create Exceptional Workplaces* helping to make them safer, healthier, and more productive. Key brands in this segment include: Kleenex, Scott, WypAll, Kimtech, and Jackson Safety. Kimberly-Clark Professional, located in Roswell, Ga., is one of Kimberly-Clark Corporation's four business sectors. To see how we are helping people the world over work better, please visit www.kcprofessional.com.

About Kimberly-Clark

Kimberly-Clark Corp. (NYSE: KMB) and its well-known global brands are an indispensable part of life for people in more than 175 countries. Every day, nearly a quarter of the world's population trust K-C's brands and the

solutions they provide to enhance their health, hygiene and well-being. With brands such as Kleenex, Scott, Huggies, Pull-Ups, Kotex and Depend, Kimberly-Clark holds the No. 1 or No. 2 share position in more than 80 countries. To keep up with the latest K-C news and to learn more about the Company's 141-year history of innovation, visit www.kimberly-clark.com or follow us on [Facebook](#) or [Twitter](#).

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