

May 18, 2010  
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### NMMC PRESENTS SPIRIT OF WOMEN AWARDS

TUPELO, Miss.—North Mississippi Medical Center announced three regional Spirit of Women Award recipients Tuesday during a luncheon honoring winners and nominees.

Spirit of Women Awards honor ordinary individuals who do extraordinary things. Regional winners, who go on to become national nominees, are: Lindsey Foley of Blue Springs, Young Person Role Model; Lenton Smith, Community Hero; and Laura McClung of Iuka, Healthcare Hero. NMMC presented each winner with a framed certificate, a bouquet of flowers and a \$50 Visa gift card.

Foley helped organize Operation Christmas Child efforts in her community, resulting in the donation of more than 1,000 shoeboxes for needy children around the world. She travels every year to Atlanta, Ga., to pack boxes for shipment. In addition, Foley works in clothes closets and toy rooms in the Mississippi Delta, with Feed the Children in Nashville, Tenn., and with a local hunger project. A senior at New Albany High School, Foley has given more than 500 hours of community service during the last two years and was recently honored for her exemplary volunteer service with a President's Volunteer Service Award.

Smith is Director of Food Service at Sanctuary Hospice House and has been cited for making the kitchen the "heart" of that organization. She also volunteers additional time as a chaplain for Sanctuary Hospice House, as well as volunteering at her church. In past years she has coached girls' basketball in Tupelo.

Other nominees for Community Hero included Glenda Brinkley of West Point, Beth Chambers of Tupelo, Rosa Gonzales of West Point, Debbie Hargrove of West Point, Kay Lawler of Aberdeen, Jennifer Lawrence of Tupelo, Deborah Roberts Pugh of Tupelo, Christy Sundbeck of West Point and Dianne Wade of Tupelo.

McClung serves as director of Clinical Quality for North Mississippi Medical Center-Iuka. A registered nurse since 1998, she fills many other roles at her hospital,

including employee health nurse, and infection control and performance improvement coordinator. She leads the hospital's Joint Commission and survey readiness efforts and is the champion for the hospital's Idea for Excellence program, among other responsibilities. McClung also volunteers for the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life and is on the fund distribution committee for United Way of Northeast Mississippi in Tishomingo County. She also plans and volunteers for many area health fairs and helps with American Heart Association activities.

Other nominees for Healthcare Hero included Ginger Carver of Starkville, Georgia Williams of Caledonia, and Rita Castle, Brandy Henson, Anita Klutts and Kim Sallee, all of West Point.

Through Spirit of Women, NMMC offers special events, recreational activities, health screenings and workshops. Members receive a news bulletin with special discounts and services from area businesses, advance notification of upcoming programs, as well as members-only events and activities, and free gifts. For more information about Spirit of Women membership, call (662) 377-4099 or 1-800-THE DESK (1-800-843-3375).

-30-

Sidebar:

Spirit of Women Awards honor individuals in three categories:

- Young Person Role Model. In terms of life experience, this person may be lacking in the area of longevity, but more than makes up for it with intensity. This individual extends his or her gifts to other people by participating in, or maybe even organizing, a group that shares information, material goods, education, entertainment or inspiration with people who need them.
- Community Hero. Nominees understand clearly and passionately that how we perform as individuals determine how we perform as a community. This person knows how to take the initiative, to pick up a phone, to pick up a pen and to take action. In fact, he or she searches for things that can't be done and does them. This person is not afraid to fail.
- Healthcare Hero: The real test of this nominee's work can be measured by the care he or she gives to the job—or to the person—in front of her, even when a myriad of

demands and commitments are swirling around. This person pays attention to detail, and in defiance of a popular self-help guide, does sweat the small stuff.