



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Speare Memorial Hospital
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Elaine Melquist Receives Volunteer Recognition Award

PLYMOUTH, N.H. ---Speare Memorial Hospital's Director of Student and Volunteer Services Elaine Melquist is the 2008 and recipient of the Judith Lonergan Award. The Lonergan Award is presented annually to a member of the New Hampshire Association of Volunteer Administrators (NHAVA) in recognition of outstanding professionalism and excellence in the field of volunteer administration.



Demonstrating the true spirit of volunteerism, Melquist expressed her thanks upon receiving the award saying, "Today may be my day in the spotlight, but it really is a team effort."

Fellow NHAVA member Donna Fanny read the citation honoring Melquist, which included reflections from both a current and former supervisor. Will Abbott, former executive director of the Squam Lakes Natural Science Center states, "Elaine has a set of people skills that uniquely prepared her for success as a volunteer program coordinator. She is extremely well organized, and her ability to connect individually with each volunteer in a way that motivates each individual to do more. She also created, developed and managed a very successful docent program that offered Science Center visitors an enriched personal learning experience."

Joining Speare Memorial Hospital in 2004, Melquist has continued to "work her magic," as Abbott says, by expanding the hospital's volunteer program. Her current supervisor, Laurie Bolognani, says, "Elaine has recruited many new volunteers who contribute greatly to our organization. On her own initiative, Elaine developed and implemented the hospital's gift counter using volunteer staff. Prior to this the hospital had never had a gift shop before. It has been so successful that we are planning for a full-fledged gift shop."

Bolognani continues, "Elaine has developed a core of volunteers that staff our main reception desk and Emergency Department to help direct patients and families, and serve as a warm and friendly face. Looking back, we can't imagine life without our corps of volunteers."

Melquist is an active NHAVA member, and a volunteer herself, serving the Young Ladies Library Association of the Pease Public Library in Plymouth. She also volunteers for special events at Squam Lakes Natural Science Center.

Speare Memorial Hospital is a 24-hour, acute care, non-profit community hospital and health care provider serving Plymouth and the communities of central New Hampshire for more than a century.

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