

2016 Evelyn Burston Award Winner

Sue Espenshade



Sue Espenshade moved to Elizabethtown (from Oklahoma) one week before her senior year of high school. It worked out well because she met her husband Harv there and they have been married 43 years! Sue lives on a dairy farm that has been in her family for seven generations. She graduated from Lancaster General School of Nursing in 1973. She began working at Hershey Medical Center Rehabilitation Hospital 1982, from a Staff Nurse to a few Nurse Manager Positions to Manager of Volunteer Services and Gift Shop in 2008. In the middle of raising three children, Matt, Amy, and Becky she earned a Bachelor of Science degree from Saint Francis in 1992.

At Hershey Medical Center Sue has about 430 volunteers and a 10 week summer teen program with 121 volunteers she manages. Sue has implemented great programs for volunteers. During the past five years she has instituted Volgistics Database for Volunteers for accuracy and efficiency, Project Search (placing adults with mental/physical challenges) increased volunteer experiences in Clinical Simulation Lab, Endoscopy, Patient Experience, Dermatology, Clinical Engineering, Medical Intermediate Care Unit, clerical assistance in Med/Surg Units, and the Pediatric Clinic.

Sue has been involved with Project Fellowship. Within this project Sue coordinates seven employee/volunteer groups from Hershey Medical Center that have adopted seven group homes of students from local Milton Hershey School. They participate in monthly activities with students and mentoring opportunities. These students are from underprivileged or dysfunctional homes. Sue also has been the co-chair of the Hershey Medical Center Employee Fundraising Committee-Children's Miracle Network for over 15 years. She has been involved with Children's Miracle network prior to being co-chairman. She coordinated an event called "A Tisket A Tasket" for the last 18 years. This fundraiser has raised \$270,000 to date. She also coordinates coin collections from areas at HMC and raised over \$25,000 this year.

Sue has been a very active member of PAVHRP and AHVRP, our state and national organizations. She held the offices of State Treasurer in 2015, Central Chapter Treasurer 2010-11 and 2013-14m and the State Conference Committee in 2014. She is currently on the 2016 AHVRP Membership Committee. She hosted the PAVHRP first mini-conference in 2016. She also presented a session about her Pet Therapy Program at this conference.

Sue is very involved in her community. She is involved in the Children's Miracle Network Telethon, Elizabethtown Fair, Elizabeth Grange, Dauphin County United Way Day of Caring and Elizabethtown Brethren in Christ Church for many years. Sue coordinates the milkshake stand at

the Elizabethtown Fair where they make over 10,000 hand dipped milkshakes during fair week and the profit is given to Grace Chapel Food Pantry.

Sue's favorite and proudest accomplishments are her three children and eight grandchildren. For the past nine summers we have enjoyed "Cousins' Camp." A great time of fun, including a slip-and-slide that started out as about 30 feet and has now grown to about 200 feet! Her favorite sign (that she purchased in the Gift shop) says "Children are often spoiled because no one will spank Grandma".