

Recognizing Outstanding Service Excellence



Debbie Buchwach, BSN, RN-BC
Center for Learning and Development

Jennifer Jorguson from OHSU Knight Cancer Institute submitted the following nomination . . .

A fantastic nurse showed up in our lobby today. I thought you might like to hear the story of how this chance encounter came to be.

A patient arrived at my desk with a nurse from down the hall, her name was Debbie Buchwach, and she asked me if I had a way of getting in touch with a BMT doctor. She told me that she had been looking for him so that the patient could personally thank him for being such a wonderful doctor.

The patient then began to tell his story of how he came to be at my desk. I had tears in my eyes during most of it.

He told us he was given two months to live 15 years ago. His doctor, the one he was here to thank, had given him a bone marrow transplant and it was a shining success. It gave him his life back and the patient has been able to enjoy the last 15 years of his life and is now, thanks to the Doctor, OHSU and the BMT clinic, he is looking forward to growing old.

If his story wasn't amazing enough, Debbie had encountered them near the VA and had walked them all over the hospital trying to find the doctor. Along the way she answered all their questions about OHSU and what has been happening in the past 15 years up here and even gave them a tour! Needless to say they were elated! Debbie went out of her way to make sure that the patient and their family could thank the doctor who had given him his life back. It is people like Debbie who help create amazing moments like the one mentioned above. It makes me proud to say I work at OHSU. If everyone took the care and time with patients that Debbie did, we could help make this WORLD a place we can all be proud of. We were even able to get them tram tickets so they could go and see the new cancer clinic.



Award Recipient - December 2008