

## Recognizing Outstanding Service Excellence



**Paula Huelskamp**  
*Healthcare Education Services*

### **Mary Denise Smith from Patient Relations submitted the following nomination...**

I would like to nominate Paula for a Golden ROSE Award. The Companion Quilt Program has been making quilts to give to dying patients served at OHSU since spring of 2004. These quilts add a “homelike” atmosphere to the room of dying patients. Frequently, the quilts match the life and taste of the patient it is given to. Often the quilts provide the framework for a time of reminiscence. All in all, the quilts change the environment of a typical hospital room to become a room filled with sharing and caring. Six years ago, I ran into Paula in the hall of the hospital and during our conversation I mentioned my concern that the fledgling Companion Quilt Program was not going to survive because the one main volunteer was facing some life changes and could no longer participate in the program. It was with sadness that I shared this information because I had witnessed the healing power of a quilt many times in the past year. Paula heard my lament, thought about it, and in Paula’s fashion came up with a solution; “there are many staff members here at OHSU who sew and quilt and even if they don’t know how to sew --they can iron! If we let them know of the need and provided an easy way for them to help out I believe we can keep you in quilts!!” So Paula created the Compassionate Quilt Group which has met quarterly here at OHSU for the past 6 years. Around 50 employees, family and friends of employees, and on an occasion a spouse of a patient, have gathered to create quilts to share with our patients and families. This group has provided more than 400 quilts to our patients and families and a community of quilters have been created. Without Paula’s vision and organizational skills we would not be able to provide an experience like this for our families. Thank you Paula for making the Companion Quilt Program a reality here at OHSU. [For more information about the Companion Quilt Program](#)

please contact Paula Huelskamp at 503-494-4415

March 2011

