

Recognizing Outstanding Service Excellence



Stanka Rajich
Housekeeping

Joan Laufer from the Breast Health Clinic submitted the following nomination. . .

I took to heart the note from a staff member who wondered why there seemed to be an R.N. or an M.D. after the names of most of the Golden ROSE Award recipients. Yes, it may seem that the behind-the-scenes folks are overlooked when it comes to awards although I'm sure there is recognition for a job well-done at their reviews and such. But, after all, we at OHSU are trying to be an organization where everyone is integral to the mission, a place that embraces diversity in each other and the people who come to us for care. For that reason and to answer the question, "Where is the staff when it comes to the Golden ROSE Award", I nominate Stanka in housekeeping. Stanka came to the United States to escape the civil war in her native Bosnia in the 1990s. She lived in a village outside Sarajevo where the fighting, bombing and killing were extreme. She came to the United States, learned English, got a job at OHSU and has been serving here faithfully for many years now. Stanka is the housekeeper covering our department. How large her area of responsibility outside our department is I'm not sure but I often run into her on the 10th floor of the hospital, too. She makes her rounds repeatedly throughout the day cleaning rooms, bathrooms, conserving electricity by shutting off lights in rooms not in use, emptying trash - doing all the important things that make our workplace pleasant for staff and patients alike. Stanka does all this caretaking of us and our environment with a smile, a hug, and a joy that comes from gratitude and a well developed work ethic. Stanka has gained a number of red roses over the years but I think she deserves a Golden Rose. No, she didn't save a life, manage a new information system start-up, or minister to a dying patient and his/her family, as some of the previous and very deserving Golden ROSE Award recipients. Well, she isn't in a position where those types of opportunities are likely to arise. But, if they were, Stanka would be as committed, as brave, as giving as any of the persons who have already been recognized for their contributions to OHSU, our patients and visitors. I am proud to nominate Stanka for the Golden ROSE Award.



Award Recipient - August 2009