



June 19, 2020

To Whom It May Concern on the LifePoint Mercy Award Committee:

As described in his biography written by Capital Medical Center's staff, Scott Mercy had a desire to nurture his career, give back to the community, and make time for fun, which has been perpetuated by an elite few of his employees. I am writing to support Cathy Scholtens, RN, in her receipt of Community Medical Center's Mercy Award, in light of her outstanding demonstration of the same characteristics as Mr. Mercy, and thus in her nomination for the companywide Mercy Award.

I have known Cathy since my arrival to Community Medical Center as a pediatric hospitalist in 2007. She had been a pediatric nurse on our combined pediatric-PICU unit since 1992, and through the years, her enormous personality has shone brightly on our patients and their families, co-workers, and community.

Despite Cathy's years of experience in pediatrics, she consistently fosters a growth mindset in herself and her colleagues. As an instructor in simulation learning, I rely on Cathy's presence, even on her days off, to infuse energy, not only in the mannequins, but in the other participants who may grudgingly be present in this bedside learning environment. She is continually alert as to how we can improve our patient care and teamwork. Cathy breathes life into the room when she attends a PALS course, contributing thoughtful questions and liveliness to the practiced scenarios.

I cannot personally name all the ways Cathy has given back to our community, considering the breadth of her generosity. However, one of the first I recall was when two brothers, who had been admitted dozens of times to our pediatric unit due to their congenital pulmonary disease, were both in need of a lung transplant but the cost was prohibitive. Cathy was a leader in the many fundraising events that enabled these boys and their family to move to Seattle to await their eventually successful transplants. Several years later, Cathy appeared at my children's preschool's art show, which auctioned off artwork of three and four year olds to fund new playground equipment – art that only a grandparent could love. But Cathy's magnanimity was flowing that day, evidenced when she left with an armload of crafts priced well above their physical value.

Cathy has supported Youth Homes, an organization that cares for children, who are facing abuse, neglect, emotional trauma and substance abuse problems, with a safe refuge during the healing process. I am reminded of her benevolence to Youth Homes as I walk through my own home, my eyes landing on her self-published books of bird and nature photography, as well as my fingers turning on a light which is crowned by her hand painted switch plates in my boys' bedrooms – a colorful party pattern for my oldest; a caricature of my middle son playing soccer with his number 11 uniform; and three pigs representing each of my sons' 4H hogs for my youngest. Both of these projects raised countless dollars for Youth Homes.



And the most obvious characteristic of Mr. Mercy's which Cathy embodies is making time for fun! Each morning when I walk into the unit and see Cathy's name assigned to patients on our unit's board, I am confident it will be an unforgettable day. From her spontaneous singing of oldies but goodies or songs of peace, to her wheel barrel and handstand antics, patients are guaranteed high spirited entertainment as well as fantastic care. Cathy inspires us with her "random acts of kindness" in our pediatric unit and in our community, including humorously motivational magnets which encourage us to be better humans with a smile on our faces. And if a colleague or a patient is lucky enough to have a birthday, or discharge after a prolonged hospitalization, or other dubious commemorative event, Cathy will be front and center in leading the celebration.

Cathy Scholtens, RN, epitomizes the values for which Scott Mercy stood, and therefore is my nomination to be selected from among LifePoint Health's organizations to be the companywide Mercy Award recipient for 2020.

Sincerely,

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