

PASSION TO HEAL

This year's Healthcare Humanity Awards saw 18 winners from the National Healthcare Group (NHG). We showcase four NHG healthcare professionals and find out what makes them go beyond their call of duty to take care of the sick and infirm.

The Courage Fund Healthcare Humanity Award is a continuing legacy to the Courage Awards that were given out in year 2003 after the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) outbreak in Singapore. It recognises and honours exemplary healthcare professionals who are inspirational role models who have shown courage, compassion and steadfastness. The Award aims to spread the message that healthcare is a noble profession and vocation, beyond just a job. This year, there were 18 winners from NHG, out of the 48 awards given out. Congratulations to all winners! +

"I believe in exercising flexibility when addressing the needs and concerns of our patients and their caregivers - that's truly what it means to provide person-focused service."

DR LEE CHENG
SENIOR CONSULTANT,
DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY PSYCHIATRY
INSTITUTE OF MENTAL HEALTH

Throughout his illustrious career, Dr Lee has been very successful in juggling his clinical work along with his committee obligations and administrative duties. He helps to develop community psychiatry in Singapore. As Programme Director for both the Assertive Community Treatment (ACT) and Mobile Crisis (MCT) teams, Dr Lee's efforts have allowed for patients with severe and persistent psychiatric disorders to receive individualised treatment that allows them to continue living within their community while working towards recovery.

In 2007, he assumed the role of Programme Director of the Adult Community Mental Health Team under the National Mental Health Blueprint (Ministry of Health). On top of these achievements, Dr Lee has also been active in conducting public education forums on mental health issues, with the aim of deconstructing the stigma around mental illnesses and encouraging Singaporeans to welcome recovering mental patients into their fold.

Apart from his teaching commitment and mentoring of IMH psychiatric trainees, Dr Lee has also found time for academic pursuits, having completed several research projects and co-published papers in both local and international journals.



As testimony to her dedication and professionalism, Ms Tai Sook Ping receives a regular stream of compliments from former patients all over the world. She demonstrates humility, patience, resilience and courage in tending to all under her charge. Ms Tai is a respected mentor amongst her colleagues and exhibits exemplary and personalised care to the patients. She goes beyond the call of duty to ensure the proper administering of care to her patients, including one terminally-ill patient, whom she visited daily even after the patient was discharged.

"You don't develop courage by being happy in your relationships everyday. You develop it by surviving difficult times and challenging adversity. This has been the driving force in my life."

MS TAI SOOK PING
NURSE CLINICIAN, ONCOLOGY
NATIONAL UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL



BY JAIME LIM

“I have always believed that what goes around comes around. Since young, I have wanted to make an impact on someone’s life in a positive way and to love people unconditionally. The path I have taken has certainly been fulfilling in more ways than I could have ever imagined. For this, I thank God.”

MS LATHY D/O PRABHAKARAN
SENIOR NURSING OFFICER, RESPIRATORY CARE
TAN TOCK SENG HOSPITAL

As a nurse clinician looking after asthma patients, Ms Lathy takes her job very seriously and has shown great initiative in developing self-management skills for her patients, so as to improve the way in which they cope with their condition. She readily avails herself to them, even after working hours, so that they can have a resource to rely on for support at any time of the day, or in the event of emergency. In addition to being a regular volunteer with the Hindu Endowment Board, she also pays regular visits to the destitute residents around the Waterloo Street area to give them cheer and alleviate their feelings.



Ms Sujata’s dedication to helping others extends far beyond her official duties. Since 1998, she has volunteered at the Singapore Indian Development Association (SINDA) as a Mathematics and English teacher to underprivileged children. Since 2004, she has also regularly provided her services to the Mun Fatt Tong Nursing Home. Within the scope of her daily work, Ms Sujata has been proactive in initiating teaching sessions, and providing the relevant teaching materials for not only her fellow colleagues but for her patients and their families as well. She also visits some of her patients at their homes on her own time to make sure that they are well.

“When I work with an elderly, I can see that the quality of life is more important than the quantity of life. The most rewarding moment is when patients tell me that they feel much better or when they tell me how well I have taken care of them.”

MS SUJATA RAJARAM
NURSE MANAGER, GERONTOLOGY
ALEXANDRA HOSPITAL