



NEWS RELEASE

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Three Extraordinary Women honored

(Anderson, S.C. – April 1, 2015) – The AnMed Health Extraordinary Women In Healthcare event honored three extraordinary women on March 31 and recognized almost 40 others nominated for the Virginia Gilmer Extraordinary Women in Healthcare Community Service Award, the Mildred Jones Extraordinary Women in Health Leadership award and the Gladys Grantland Extraordinary Woman in Clinical Excellence award.

The honorees and the nominations are:

Willie Mae Lee - Virginia Gilmer Extraordinary Woman in Healthcare Community Service Award

Willie Mae Lee has served AnMed Health as a volunteer for 54 years, contributing more than 15,600 hours. She has been a member of the AnMed Health Auxiliary board since 1962, serving as president-elect (1991), president (1992-1993), chairperson for the sewing room service (1962-present), chairperson for the scholarship committee (since its establishment in 1996), and historian from 1994-2000.

As historian, she compiled scrapbooks detailing the many contributions and accolades of volunteers and the Auxiliary since its beginning in 1958. Under her leadership the scholarship committee has provided \$420,000 to students studying for careers in healthcare, several of whom have returned to work at AnMed Health. The Auxiliary honored Ms. Lee during her 50th anniversary year with the hospital by naming the AnMed Health Auxiliary Willie Mae Lee Scholarship.

As a volunteer in the sewing room, she coordinates the efforts of that group to produce "comfort" pillows for patients, teddy bears for young patients of OPS, bag covers for mastectomy patients, turbans for chemo patients, Christmas stockings for newborns to go home in, and gowns for stillborn babies. She recalls the story of one cancer patient

who brought his comfort pillow along for every treatment. When he passed away eventually, his family buried his pillow with him because it was such a support to him during his illness. Over the years Willie Mae Lee has served in many ways, but her focus has always been serving the patients, families and staff of AnMed Health.

Tara Ponder - Mildred Jones Extraordinary Woman in Health Leadership

Tara Ponder, AnMed Health's wellness supervisor, is known for attacking her job with kindness, generosity, optimism and enthusiasm. She always makes time to help her fellow employees. She genuinely cares about their wellness and is always willing to meet them after work at LifeChoice to help them put together an exercise plan, show them how to use the equipment correctly, and give them guidance on nutrition. Sometimes she is there to listen and give an encouraging word when people get otherwise discouraged on the way to their wellness goals.

Her goal for everyone is wellness as a whole – for body, mind and soul. She never says, “I'm too busy” and possesses the uncanny ability to walk into a room – no matter how tired she may feel before she gets there – and with her own burst of energy, immediately motivate everyone to get up and get moving.

Ms. Ponder also volunteers her time for different organizations and programs such as Lights Before Christmas, Teddy Bear Clinic, raising money for the Mobile Diagnostic Unit, Survivor Saturday Walks, men's health luncheons, and heart healthy dinners. She also stays after work to do Fit Family Challenge, Battle of the Bulge and Couch Tater to 5K trainer programs for employees.

Tara Ponder is an Extraordinary Woman in Healthcare because through her kindness, thoughtfulness, selflessness and enthusiasm, she demonstrates every day how much she cares for the employees of AnMed Health.

Kathy Deloplaine - Gladys Grantland Extraordinary Woman in Clinical Excellence

Kathy Deloplaine has been the assistant vice president for Cardiovascular Services at AnMed Health for the last eight years. During her tenure, the program has time and again proven to be successful and on the cutting edge of technology and services. The cardiovascular program has been recognized both regionally and nationally, including most recently as one of the top 25 hospitals for medical excellence in cardiac care for 2016 (CareChex). AnMed Health was also recognized by Becker's Hospital review as one of the top 100 hospitals with great heart programs.

Because of her persistence, AnMed Health has been designated as a Blue Distinction Center for Cardiac Care, accredited by the Society of Cardiovascular Patient Care as a Chest Pain Center with PCI, earned the 2015 Women's Choice Award for Heart Care,

scored a Platinum Award by ACTION Registry, and received silver recognition by Mission Lifeline.

Under Ms. Deloplaine's guidance, CV Services at AnMed Health added the Congestive Heart Failure Clinic and developed two state-of-the-art electrophysiology rooms with the planned expansion of a third room this year. The hospital's cardiac catheterization labs were relocated and expanded into their current space in large part due to her leadership and guidance.

Because of Kathy Deloplaine's role, AnMed Health offers services that typically are available only at major academic medical facilities. Heart and Vascular Care is currently embarking on new technologies that rival some of the best programs in the nation.

The guest speaker for the event was Ruth W. Brinkley, president and CEO of KentuckyOne Health, and senior vice president of operations for Catholic Health Initiatives. KentuckyOne Health was formed when two major Kentucky health care organizations came together in early 2012, combining the Jewish and Catholic heritages of the two former systems – Jewish Hospital & St. Mary's HealthCare and Saint Joseph Health System.

A native of Georgia, Brinkley has 40 years of health care experience working in private public, academic, community-based, and healthcare organizations including academic, community-based and national hospitals and health systems. Prior to joining KentuckyOne Health, Brinkley served as president and chief executive officer of Southern Arizona's largest health system, Carondelet Health Network, part of Ascension Health.