

## **MSCA Members Recognized in 2021 Boston Globe Salute to Nurses**

### **Aberjona Nursing & Rehabilitation Center**

*Dina Surpris, Aberjona Rehabilitation & Nursing Center*

Dina sat with every nurse and certified nursing assistant and helped them with their vaccination decision in such a way as to get these people comfortable with the vaccination process.—*Nominated by Richard Salter*

### **Allerton House at Central Park**

*Joan Cunningham, Melanie Cosato, Jessica Canuto, Kristen Dehay, Claire Quilty, Allerton House at Central Park*

To each of these unsung heroes, thank you for your dedication, compassion, and caring. They have tirelessly put their own and their families' health at risk to care for each and every resident in the community. They are the strength for so many. Words can't express my gratitude for everything they do, but I hope they always remember that they make a difference for so many every day. I admire their courage, sacrifices, and dedication. They remind me daily what it means to be a nurse.—*Nominated by Ellen Laramee*

### **Bay Path Rehabilitation & Nursing Center**

*Adilio Paiva, Bay Path Rehabilitation & Nursing Center*

I'd like to recognize Adilio for his outstanding care, skill, kindness, and compassion in caring for Terry Zaccagnini. Our Nana has been on the Standish Unit for over three years. Her care has been personalized, and the

staff work hard to meet her individual needs. Before COVID, Adilio always gave personal updates with a big hello and smile. Adilio is a team player. He comes to care meetings prepared and open for information on Nana's likes and dislikes, and for suggestions to keep her "content." As COVID greatly restricted our ability to visit and communicate, I know that the team—from front door check-in staff to all team members—were working together, with Adilio often at the helm. These are challenging times to care for our loved one and we appreciate all the team's efforts.—*Nominated by Linda Zaccagnini*

### **Beaumont Rehabilitation and Skilled Nursing Center**

*Nicole Murphy, Beaumont Rehabilitation and Skilled Nursing Center*

Nicole bravely led the National Guard into the facility to COVID-19 test the whole building. She did so with poise and compassion.—*Nominated by Marie Achilles*

### **Blue Hills Health and Rehabilitation Center**

*Kimberly Ferris, Blue Hills Health and Rehabilitation Center*

Kimberly Ferris is the director of nursing at Blue Hills in Stoughton. She led us through the first wave of COVID-19 with as much compassion and grace as anyone could have during those trying days. She is a wonderful leader and nurse. I am proud to nominate her and honored to work beside her.—

*Nominated by Pamela Hill*

## **Center for Extended Care at Amherst**

*Lindsay Reed, Center for Extended Care at Amherst*

Lindsay really went all-out this past year. Working through COVID-19 has been one of the most difficult things. But Lindsay continued to persevere. Months after our first wave had passed, we got another positive case. Lindsay went out of her way to make sure this patient was cared for and knew just how much she was loved, whether it was sitting at her bedside, playing her favorite music in her room, or taking extra time each day to FaceTime with her family. Lindsay treats every patient like her own family and provides exceptional care, taking time each day to understand exactly what they need. She is the picture-perfect image of the nurse I would want caring for me and my family.—

*Nominated by Trisha Earl*

## **Charlwell House Health & Rehabilitation Center**

*Joanna Lynn, Charlwell House Health & Rehabilitation Center*

When my daughter, Joanna Lynn Zilfi, died suddenly of heart failure last June, we were overwhelmed with beautiful messages from her coworkers, patients, and their families. As evidenced by numerous letters, Joanna was a loving and skillful nurse who made a difference. She was a very humble, giving person who never sought thanks, recognition, or accolades. When COVID-19 spread, she selflessly left our home and isolated herself to protect us. Here are some excerpts from a few of those letters:

“We were so grateful that early morning in November that Joanna was working. She cared and was so compassionate during our father’s last hours. It is something we will never forget. She was such a wonderful human being, you

would have been so proud of her, I could go on and on, but I can't imagine how difficult things must be but I just felt that I had to thank you for raising such a kind, sweet and amazing human being who became such a wonderful nurse."

"She was amazing and we were lucky to have her caring for our dad. I know they are together and if he needs a good nurse, he has the best around."

"I loved that girl. She was such a good nurse."

In a clipboard she brought to work, we saw that Joanna had taped a photo and note a patient had given her. The note expressed so perfectly the meaningful and therapeutic connection that happens among nurse and patient. This patient had touched Joanna's heart as did so many of those she cared for.

Thank you to the *Boston Globe* for saluting Joanna and all of the other dedicated and talented nurses. Joanna would have thought herself undeserving, but she also would have truly appreciated it.—*Nominated by Catherine Zilfi*

## **Hathorne Hill**

*Theresa Birmingham, Hathorne Hill Skilled Nursing and Rehabilitation*

Terri is a one-of-a-kind human being. She is a compassionate, dedicated and tireless leader. From the start of this pandemic, Terri has led her team, her residents, their families, and her peers through this storm, all while maintaining her strong core of ethics and grace. Terri's most valued quality is her empathy and her ability to take a pause, hold your hand, and even share a cry—to be quickly followed by a plan to move forward. She is as real as it gets

and being a nurse is her superpower. As a colleague and social worker, I am proud to work beside some of the best.—*Nominated by Alyson Hall*

### **Hebrew SeniorLife**

*1 Berger Team, Hebrew Rehabilitation Center Roslindale, Hebrew SeniorLife*

In spring 2020 the 1 Berger unit was hit hard by COVID-19. At that time, we didn't know what we were dealing with. It was very overwhelming and scary. Both patients and staff contracted the virus. Throughout this very challenging time the 1 Berger team maintained a sense of professionalism and compassion. "Grace under Fire." There were so many instances where their calming and compassionate behavior made patients feel at ease. As team members had to stay out due to the virus their fellow team members worked extra shifts without hesitation in order to maintain coverage. My comments apply without reservation to each and every member of the 1 Berger nursing team.—*Nominated by Robert Treiber*

*5 Berger Nurses, Hebrew Rehabilitation Center Roslindale, Hebrew SeniorLife*

I nominate Judith Eyma, Kathleen McSheffrey, Carline Cenat, Godofredo Torres, Jeanine Chery, and Lorraine Notice as a group. During the early days of COVID-19, working on the memory care floor was like a war zone without weapons. These nurses worked tirelessly to protect their patients. When the family members couldn't come to visit, these extraordinary nurses gave their patients the same time and love the patients would get from their own family. This group did not think of their own families; they gave all they had to their

patients. They deserve to be saluted for what they did then, and continue to do now.—*Nominated by Fana Hailemichael*

*Tatyana Arber, Medical Facility, Hebrew SeniorLife*

She also always goes all-out for her patients and advocates for them and the team. She is a strong team player and a strong leader on this floor. She always helps everyone on the floor without hesitating and would do anything for her patients and staff.—*Nominated by Lisa Lopes*

*Stella Asirifi, Hebrew Rehabilitation Center Roslindale, Hebrew SeniorLife*

Stella is a night shift charge nurse. She's constantly patient rounding and following staff to make sure the needs of the patients are met and satisfied. Stella is an excellent communicator and makes sure her team members are updated. She epitomizes "24-hour nursing—nursing never sleeps."—

*Nominated by Robert Treiber*

*Nover Baoengan, Hebrew Rehabilitation Center Roslindale, Hebrew SeniorLife*

Nover is a great team player who is always willing to help where it is needed. He always has a positive attitude and is willing to go the extra mile for the patients and his team members. In times of high stress, Nover maintains compassion and professionalism.—*Nominated by Robert Treiber*

*Stephanie David, Medical Facility, Hebrew SeniorLife*

Stephanie is an amazing charge nurse and always supports the floor at all times. She always is there for her patients and patient's families whenever needed and makes sure that everyone is satisfied and safe at the end of the day. Stephanie is so compassionate with her care that I receive many compliments from families, saying how her love and care has made them so happy and makes them feel like their family members are being well taken care of. She goes over and beyond for her colleagues and her patients at all times. She and I have worked together strongly recently to enforce team-building, and her ideas for the floor have come a long way to ensure all patients receive the highest quality of care here at HSL.—*Nominated by Lisa Lopes*

*Elina Dubovsky, Hebrew SeniorLife Home Care, Hebrew SeniorLife*

Elina is my 95-year-old mom's visiting nurse. Elina treats my mom with respect and dignity, encourages her, listens to and validates her concerns, and clearly explains what treatments she is doing and why. And she calls me after her visits, because I still can't visit the facility where my mom lives due to COVID-19 restrictions. Elina is everything a nurse should be: competent, kind, efficient, and a great communicator.—*Nominated by Paula Angell*

*Debra Dunlap, Hebrew Rehabilitation Center NewBridge, Hebrew SeniorLife*

Deb is one of the hardest-working nurses we have, providing comprehensive nursing care with the utmost compassion for each patient, especially during these very tough times. Her thoroughness and thoughtfulness are just

outstanding. She communicates with families every step of the way, which gives families a sense of security and relief, especially during COVID-19, and advocates fiercely for patients to give them the best quality of life possible. Deb truly gives 100 percent all the time.—*Nominated by Laura Hunt*

*Margaret Egbueze, Yetunde Ojo, Hebrew Rehabilitation Center Roslindale, Hebrew SeniorLife*

Yeti and Margaret are excellent charge nurses who ensure that the basics of patient care are followed up on and that patients are taken care of at the highest level. Whenever there is an emergency, they are right there to make sure the patient is stable and comfortable, because for these two outstanding nurses, “It’s all about the basics.”—*Nominated by Robert Treiber*

*Contrina Glynn, Hebrew Rehabilitation Center Roslindale, Hebrew SeniorLife*

Perseverance is Trina’s middle name. She perseveres through the many challenges a nurse has to deal with, and this makes her a great nurse. During the spring of 2020, when we were overwhelmed with COVID-19, Trina maintained a high level of professionalism and compassion. There were so many instances when Trina spent 1:1 time with very sick patients to make them feel at ease.—*Nominated by Robert Treiber*

*Susan Graff, Hebrew Rehabilitation Center Roslindale, Hebrew SeniorLife*

Susan started just one month before the beginning of the pandemic. She came to the organization as a clinical specialist, ready to educate. Little did she



know that just six weeks after starting her new job, she'd be teaching staff about COVID-19, PPE, testing, and fit testing, helping to staff the COVID-19 units, and then doing it all over again. She took the challenge with a "can-do" attitude that was upbeat and positive. This had an enormous impact on the staff. She was able to help them smile even during the worst of times. And now, a year later, her leadership and problem-solving skills have resulted in her leading the department. Her resiliency was remarkable, and she became the new employee everyone knew by name as a result of her efforts during this pandemic.—*Nominated by Tammy B. Retalic*

*Janet Graham, Hebrew SeniorLife Home Care, Hebrew SeniorLife*

When I think of Janet, what comes to mind is her depth of experience in the home-health setting and the skill that she brings into our patients' homes. One example occurred last spring, in the early days of COVID-19. We were one of the few home-care agencies performing home COVID testing. We received an urgent call on a Friday afternoon with a request from an MD to have a nurse perform a COVID test on a patient whom we currently had on service. Our call went out to Janet. Even though this was late on a Friday and she had completed her day, she immediately agreed to assist. It took a great deal of collaboration between the MD, our office, and Janet, but we were able to arrange for the doctor to hand the test off to Janet at the patient's home. Janet donned full PPE and obtained the sample while reassuring the patient that she was in good hands. The MD was waiting outside, and transported it to the lab. Janet did not think twice about assisting. She was calm and comforted this very concerned patient. This is just one of many examples of why Janet should receive this recognition. I am so thankful to have her as part of our team, and

our patients are so lucky to have Janet advocate for their well-being.—

*Nominated by Kim Portello*

*Kendra Grimes, Hebrew Rehabilitation Center NewBridge, Hebrew SeniorLife*

I have had the honor and privilege to work alongside Kendra for the past five years, and continue to be amazed by her work. Kendra has the natural ability to combine her brilliant clinical skills with a great sense of compassion and empathy. This not only applies to her beloved patients, but to their families and our staff as well. The COVID-19 pandemic pushed her work full-throttle, but she operated with even more drive and fervor. She is the clinical gift that keeps on giving. Thank you, Kendra.—*Nominated by Christina Ypsilantis*

*Nuray Harkins, Hebrew Rehabilitation Center Roslindale, Hebrew SeniorLife*

Nuray is a loving, caring, and compassionate nurse who always goes all out for her patients. When working with challenging patients she maintains a high level of patience, professionalism, and “Compassion Beyond Care.”—

*Nominated by Robert Treiber*

*Bozhena Kogan, Hebrew Rehabilitation Center Roslindale, Hebrew SeniorLife*

I usually consider bedside nurses when I nominate for Salute to Nurses. But it's the nurse leader who provides guidance and resources to support bedside nurses, particularly during challenging times. The pandemic, despite its

challenges, showed who would lead and rise above the challenges. Bozhena rose above the chaos and provided the gentle, but firm, leadership needed to carry her teams. As a result of her rolling up her sleeves, listening, and supporting the bedside nurse during times of great distress, and always leading with calm reassurance, Bozhena made everything possible. Even during a pandemic. She made sure that both quality of care and quality of life were always considered, and above all else, that the nursing staff felt cared about and could do what needed to be done. As a result, the teams are stronger than ever and always ready to move forward.—*Nominated by Tammy B. Retalic*

*Rose Arlene Lagman, Hebrew SeniorLife*

She is dedicated and passionate. She loves taking care of her patients in a holistic manner. She's a good team player and gets along with anybody.—*Nominated by Rebecca Needham Prince*

*Janet L'Heureux, Hebrew Rehabilitation Center Roslindale, Hebrew SeniorLife*

Janet is a charge nurse and the ultimate mentor for the future stars of nursing. She has been a nurse for more than 30 years and is compassionate, kind, and very smart. Janet is invaluable in her role as a mentor to our new nurses. She is generous with her time and is invested in their training. I admire her kind and thorough approach to training each new generation of nurses that comes to our unit. Her knowledge and wisdom are invaluable assets. There are many great nurses in the field, but not all make great mentors and great teachers.

Janet makes the profession of nursing better, and the care of our patients better too!—*Nominated by Robert Treiber*

*Maliaka Lindsey, Hebrew Rehabilitation Center NewBridge, Hebrew SeniorLife*

Maliaka has been with HSL for 27 years, most recently working for our Hinda and Arthur Marcus Research Institute in Roslindale. She came to HRC-NewBridge to work as a nurse on the floor, something she hadn't done in many, many years. She came to the second floor exactly when we needed her. She is a natural nurse, and this was clear, as her practice seemed absolutely up-to-date and it was hard to believe she hadn't done floor nursing in that long. Maliaka impressed everyone who observed her excellent clinical and communication skills. She has since been promoted to charge nurse, and she is absolutely making a difference.—*Nominated by Laura Hunt*

*Jacquelyn Mello, Hebrew Rehabilitation Center Roslindale, Hebrew SeniorLife*

Jackie is relatively new to nursing. She demonstrates excellent clinical competence, professionalism, and compassion. She is an excellent listener and communicator, and always makes sure that patient-centered care is delivered to its highest standards.—*Nominated by Robert Treiber*

*Emilie Metellus*

*Lindsay Burke, Hebrew Rehabilitation Center Roslindale, Hebrew SeniorLife*

Emilie and Lindsay were just a few months off orientation as newly graduated nurses when COVID-19 affected patients on 3 Berenson Allen. They acted like seasoned nurses, doing what they were expected to do on the floor in full PPE attire: communicated with families, provided 1:1 care, exchanged ideas with other team members, administered medication, organized the environment, and complied with doctors' orders. They worked in tandem. When 3 East was finally converted to the COVID-19 unit, they each embraced the decision with a positive attitude. Most staff aligned and cooperated with their contagious positivity. They agreed to stay overtime on many days just to cover staffing needs. Their actions and way of thinking as professionals were exceptional. I could not ask for better staff during that scary and uncertain time on our floor. I am very proud to nominate Emilie and Lindsay as new—but very competent—nurses!—*Nominated by Ross Mangilog*

*Candelaria Nichols, Orchard Cove, Hebrew SeniorLife*

When a patient lost her husband to COVID-19, Candy focused on the patient's emotional needs and provided the support that her daughters would have given, if COVID-19 hadn't prevented them from being with their mother. Day after day for many weeks, Candy's presence was like family to this patient. Candy comforted her when she was sad and served as a distraction when the grief became too much. Person-centered care comes naturally to Candy as shown in her gentle nature and kindness toward all. Her positivity is compelling and was a ray of sunshine during the darkest days. Candy is truly an example of what an exceptional nurse is, she is genuinely worthy of this recognition.—*Nominated by Diane Chisholm*

*Corazon Panganiban, Hebrew Rehabilitation Center, Hebrew SeniorLife*

Cora gives her patients her all. She goes beyond the call of duty when caring for her patients. They all are sad when she isn't here; you can see the disappointment in their eyes and voice. She is a very caring and giving person, always ready to help everyone without hesitation. She is also a teaching nurse. It is a pleasure to work for her.—*Nominated by Earlene Williams*

*Zachary Ruby, Hebrew SeniorLife, Newbridge*

Zach is a relatively new nurse who has jumped into care during the COVID-19 pandemic with tremendous compassion. When our organization started our first COVID unit at the Roslindale site, he volunteered to go there when there was so much fear and so little was known. Zach does so much to reduce the isolation that patients and families feel. He spends extra time with patients who are in isolation and stuck in their rooms. He has also learned so much about the details of COVID care. When an older woman dying of COVID mentioned how much she loved a certain ice cream, Zach brought it to her on his day off. Sometimes those little things make all the difference in giving comfort. Zach is young, and is already an expert.—*Nominated by Lauraine Davidson*

*Zachary Ruby, Hebrew Rehabilitation Center NewBridge, Hebrew SeniorLife*

We had a beloved long-term chronic-care hospital patient transferred to the COVID-19 unit. She was not doing well, and eating very little. She loved chocolate! Especially chocolate ice cream. This patient was lactose-intolerant and we only had vanilla Lactaid and milk-based ice creams on hand. Zachary Ruby drove from his home—a good distance from HRC-NewBridge—with a quart of chocolate Lactaid ice cream for her. This drive took more than three hours out of his day, but that was the furthest from his mind. His only goal was to make this patient happy. He, like so many others, reminds us of the beauty of humanity.—*Nominated by Stephanie Ifezue*

*Sarah Sjostrom, Hebrew Rehabilitation Center NewBridge, Hebrew SeniorLife*

Sarah moved out of her home for five or six weeks and stayed in a cottage on our NewBridge campus in order to provide 24/7 coverage during the height of the pandemic. She left her three children in her mother's care and only saw them via Zoom. Admittedly, she was very concerned for her family due to her front-line work with COVID-19 patients. Thanks to her intense onsite coverage and close clinical leadership, HRC-NewBridge quickly contained the spread and recovered. Sarah was a role model for all the staff, providing education, guidance, and comfort during this stressful and uncharted time. She was able to reach many of the families and manage their fears and anxieties. Sarah gets my vote for her outstanding commitment to leading her staff, her patients, and their families through those difficult days.—*Nominated by Mary K. Moscato*

*Judith Tasang, Hebrew Rehabilitation Center NewBridge, Hebrew SeniorLife*

Judith has been with HRC at NewBridge on the Charles since November 2010. I have had the honor of working with her as her nurse manager for the past year. She's an exceptional nurse who upholds Hebrew SeniorLife's cultural beliefs at all times. She advocates for her patients as well as her peers. She leads by example and has her patients' well-being and safety at the forefront of her practice. This is also true for her peers. She always put their needs ahead of her own and ensures that her household runs smoothly with teamwork on her mind. She embodies everything that a nurse should be. She has proven to be a leader this past year, with the pandemic consuming everyone's professional and personal lives. She never let this difficult year get to her or break her composure. She approaches all with motivation, teamwork, and professionalism—a quality that she has perfected with her practice. Judith is constantly looking for innovative ways to improve the care that she delivers. She approaches everyone with respect and compassion. I constantly hear from family members that they rest assured that their loved ones are well taken care of when Judith is working. She also strives to be a mentor to newer nurses and patient care associates. She takes this on wholeheartedly, knowing that she will have an impact on new staff on her household, to ensure that the best care is given consistently.—*Nominated by Joseph Rodriguez*

*Elizabeth Terhune, Hebrew Rehabilitation Center, Hebrew SeniorLife*

Beth is not only an excellent nurse practitioner who practices evidence-based palliative care, she is also an authentic and caring person who positively impacts her patients, families, and colleagues. Beth has a unique ability to foster relationships, build trust, and alleviate suffering in difficult



circumstances. She moves gracefully between settings and shows compassion and understanding to all she encounters. In this difficult year, we appreciated her skill and commitment more than ever.—*Nominated by Emily Palmer*

*Laurie Terp, Hebrew Rehabilitation Center Roslindale, Hebrew SeniorLife*

We all recognize that roles were completely blurred during the pandemic.

Nurses, especially, were tasked with performing jobs that needed to be done because there was no one else to do them. Laurie, a nurse who worked with the quality team, understood early on that her skills would be needed in a very different way. Nurses who have critical-thinking and strong problem-solving skills are equipped to respond to the unknown. Laurie led the opening of a COVID-19 unit within a week, equipped with everything needed to care for those seniors who acquired a disease that was still mysterious. Working with fearful staff, she provided support and education and worked beside them for long hours every day to provide the necessary care. By the end of the first surge, her team was proud and knowledgeable. She handed off the oversight of this well-established team to another leader so she could then take on developing the employee testing surveillance program. Starting from scratch with this program, she asked questions, pulled together resources, and created a new team that was well-equipped to take on testing. As she continued to lead the oversight of this essential new program, Laurie pivoted once again to establish the in-house vaccination program.—*Nominated by Tammy B.*

*Retalic*

*Annette White, Hebrew Rehabilitation Center, Hebrew SeniorLife*

Annette has consistently shown compassion to the patients and families on the Medically Complex Unit at HRC. She always provides excellent nursing care, kindness, and communication to those who need it most.—*Nominated by Erin Koenig*

### **Lighthouse Nursing Care Center**

*Nursing Staff, Lighthouse Nursing Care Center*

Lighthouse nursing staff has worked beyond their duties and abilities to keep our loved ones safe and well cared-for through the hard times of this past year, and they've always done excellent work for their residents.—*Nominated by Claudel-Jimenez Family*

### **Newfield House Convalescent Home**

*Raymond Dubois, Newfield House*

Raymond was our saving grace. Our father moved facilities as we tried to find the right place for him to treat his Parkinson's disease. Raymond welcomed our dad with humor, grace, and professionalism. He was stern and encouraging when he had to be with our father and could give him a full-bellied laugh with a sometimes-dirty joke. I don't believe our Dad would have led such a good quality of life during the end stages without him. We are forever grateful to him.—*Nominated by Sarah Leahey-Benjamin*

### **Newton & Wellesley Alzheimer**

*Ashley Maguire, Newton & Wellesley Alzheimer*

For the two years my mother spent at the Newton Wellesley Center for Alzheimer Care, Ashley Maguire was the floor nurse whom I came to depend on for knowing how my mother was doing. Mother would break into a big smile when she saw Ashley, assuring me that Ashley was someone she counted on throughout her day. Ashley was always available to me whenever I had a concern or question. She had such a warm and welcoming attitude that made visits to the facility much easier. I am so grateful for the work she does for this most vulnerable group of patients. Dementia is terribly difficult for patients and families alike. But thanks to people like Ashley, it was much easier to endure.—*Nominated by Carole Katz*

### **Quincy Health and Rehabilitation Center**

*Beatrice Isidor, Quincy Health and Rehabilitation Center*

Beatrice loves not only her patients, but also her staff. She's a very responsible nurse. Beatrice touches the lives of the people in the facility, she's happy all the time and she makes sure her patient is comfortable and safe. She would be a great leader in the future.—*Nominated by Sophia Vilus*

### **Sancta Maria Nursing Facility**

*Jennifer McMahan, Sancta Maria Nursing Facility*

Jennifer works in the Alzheimer's Unit. My husband is a patient there, and she's been very supportive of him and keeps in touch with me. Whenever I call her, she never makes me feel that I'm bothering her. She goes out of her way to make sure that he is comfortable and being taken care of.—*Nominated by Maureen Colomey*

*Bridget Blake, Spaulding Nursing & Therapy Center Brighton*

Bridget is always smiling. She has worked with her staff and the patients on her unit with compassion and determination during the tumultuous past year. Bridget is artfully able to calm her patients. She has also provided clear clinical updates and information to give families peace of mind when they couldn't be present due to the pandemic. Bridget was quick to volunteer to perform mandated staff swabbing; with the sun blazing down, there was Bridget in the parking lot, in full PPE, easing staff fears and lightening the mood while performing unpleasant nasopharyngeal swabs.—*Nominated by Jeanne Putnam*

*Bridget Blake, Spaulding Nursing & Therapy Center Brighton*

Bridget consistently provides high-quality, compassionate, patient-centered care. She first joined the team as a charge nurse and recently transitioned to a manager position. Bridget not only addresses the health needs of her patients, but also works exceptionally hard to connect with them at a very vulnerable time. She demonstrates solid leadership, collaboration, and communication skills to help strengthen our nursing and rehabilitation team. Her impact is evident in the way her team unites around the common goal of providing a safe, empowering environment for patients and families.—*Nominated by*

*Katherine MacKirdy*

*Bridget Blake, Spaulding Nursing & Therapy Center Brighton*

Bridget has taken on the role of nurse manager after successfully filling the role of charge nurse on a busy short-term rehab unit. To learn all that is involved in being a nurse manager is difficult enough; Bridget has done this during the pandemic when patient, family, and staff stress is running at its highest. Bridget is always caring, cheerful, and invested. She makes sure each of the patients on her floor, as well as the nurses and patient care advocates, have everything they need to be safe and flourish.—*Nominated by Jeanne Putnam*

*Deborah Byrne, Spaulding Rehabilitation Network*

Deb is the director of nursing at SCC and was excellent at advocating, planning, and setting up processes when COVID-19 started a year ago. She has worked tirelessly to keep up with the continuous fast changes to these processes, ensuring that staff are updated and have appropriate equipment for the patients and themselves. During all of this, Deb showed extraordinary compassion to a patient and his wife who were relocated due to the pandemic. One of our sister facilities had to quickly establish a COVID unit. This required one of their residents to be transferred to our facility. Deb took the time to meet the patient and family the day they arrived. She wanted the family to know who we are, and that we would provide the patient with the best care. Deb has frequently checked in with the family to see how they are doing and if she has concerns regarding their family member. Deb also spoke respectfully to this nonverbal patient. She said good morning to him and explained what she was planning to do for his care. She set up a program for the patient to

receive a shower on a scheduled basis. Deb has also taken the time to relieve other people's fears during the trying times of COVID. This is only one story of how Deb shows her love and compassion and leadership in nursing. Many more stories go untold, and I am grateful for her strong support.—*Nominated by Laurie Shippey*

### **St. Camillus Health Center**

*Barbara Allen, St. Camillus Health Center*

My mother has worked tirelessly throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. She has served the needs of her patients for 30-plus years and worn many hats in her role. I want to thank her for serving not only her patients, but their families as well, by providing compassionate support. She is a role model for her ethical practice and strong leadership skills. Mom, I applaud you for being an amazing caregiver on the front lines. Thank you for being the backbone of the nursing profession and helping me to carry on the tradition.—*Nominated by Lauren Griffin*

### **St. Joseph Manor Health Care**

*Ann Crockett, St. Joseph Manor*

Ann is the infectious disease nurse at St. Joseph Manor. She's also a member of my parish, where she has volunteered her expertise as we have altered our worship to accommodate for COVID. She puts in very long hours to assure the safety of both residents and staff at St. Joseph Manor, where we all depend on her deep knowledge and exacting practice. In such a time as this, Ann Crockett deserves recognition and thanks.—*Nominated by Sarah Brockmann*

## **St. Patrick's Manor**

*Debbie Cipriano, St. Patrick's Manor*

This nurse has been dedicated to an elderly patient population for years, even as she raised two children and supported a family. Her example led one of her daughters to take up the challenge of a difficult but rewarding position as an Emergency Department nurse at Massachusetts General Hospital. She has supported her family and herself, all while dedicating herself to compassionate and loving service.—*Nominated by Joseph MacCarthy*