



For Immediate Release

Contact:

Elmhurst Hospital Center

Atiya Butler, External Affairs

(718) 334-1259

atiya.butler@nychhc.org

[nyc.gov/Elmhurst Hospital](http://nyc.gov/ElmhurstHospital)

DAISY FOUNDATION FOUNDERS RECOGNIZED BY EXTRAORDINARY NURSES AT ELMHURST HOSPITAL CENTER

November 26, 2010 (Elmhurst, N.Y.) – The Nursing Department at Elmhurst Hospital Center (EHC) recently held a recognition ceremony for Mark and Bonnie Barnes, founders of The Daisy Foundation and the DAISY Award For Extraordinary Nurses, to thank them for their support of Nursing Excellence .

The not-for-profit DAISY Foundation is based in Glen Ellen, CA, and was established by Mr. and Mrs. Barnes in memory of their son, J. Patrick Barnes, who died at the age of 33 in late 1999 from complications related to a rare auto-immune disease. The care Patrick and his family received from nurses while he was ill inspired the Barneses to come up with a way to thank nurses across the country for making a profound difference in the lives of their family and countless others.

Elmhurst Hospital Center has been participating in the Daisy Award Program since last year, with the hospital's CARITAS Nursing Committee selecting a nurse each month to receive recognition in front of the nurse's colleagues, physicians and patients.

“We want to thank Mark and Bonnie Barnes for their support of nurses here and everywhere through the work of their wonderful foundation,” said Joanne Gull, RN, EHC’s Chief Nursing Officer and Deputy Executive Director. “Our nurses take pride in their profession and in the quality of care they provide to our patients, and it’s great to have their efforts recognized.”

“We are thrilled to be here, and to be able to tell you in person how much nurses mean to us,” said Bonnie Barnes, President and Co-Founder of The DAISY Foundation, as she addressed EHC’s Nursing staff and administrators. “When Patrick was critically ill, our family experienced first-hand the remarkable skill and care nurses provide acutely ill patients every day and night. The kind of work the nurses at Elmhurst Hospital Center are called on to do every day epitomizes the purpose of The DAISY Award.”

“Nurses don’t often see the enormous impact that they have on the lives of other people,” added Mark Barnes. “What you do everyday that you don’t think is special is really very special. You truly make the world a better place.”

After being presented with a certificate of appreciation by Elmhurst Hospital Center’s Nursing Department, the Barneses acknowledged Mervin David, RN, a Nurse Educator in the Department of Cardiology and this month’s Daisy Award recipient. David, like all Daisy recipients, received a framed Daisy Award, a hand-carved Shona sculpture from Zimbabwe entitled “A Healer’s Touch”, and a box of Cinnabon cinnamon rolls to share with his unit.

Elmhurst Hospital Center is one of over 300 hospitals committed to The DAISY Award program. For a complete listing of hospitals currently running the program, please go to www.DAISYfoundation.org

About Elmhurst Hospital Center

Elmhurst Hospital Center (EHC) is a 545-bed medical facility and a major tertiary care provider in the borough of Queens. EHC is a Level I Trauma Center, an Emergency Heart Care Station and a 911 Receiving Hospital, and is a premiere health care organization for key areas such as Surgery, Cardiology, Women's Health, Pediatrics, Rehabilitation Medicine and Renal and Mental Health Services.

Last year we received well over 600,000 ambulatory care visits and more than 30,000 Emergency Room visits, making EHC one of the busiest hospitals in New York City. We serve an area of approximately one million people in a community recognized as the most ethnically diverse in the world. Ensuring access to high-quality health care for all is our top priority. To find out more, please visit us at nyc.gov/ElmhurstHospital.

About The Daisy Foundation

As of October 2010, over 7,000 nurses have received the Daisy Award. This is one initiative of The DAISY Foundation whose overall goal is to help fight diseases of the immune system. Additionally, DAISY offers J. Patrick Barnes Grants for Nursing Research and Evidence-Based Practice Projects and provides assistance to ITP support groups. More information is available at www.DAISYfoundation.org.