

Nurse lauded for excellence

LISA RAINFORD
May 14, 2010

As part of its Nursing Week celebrations, St. Joseph's Health Centre launched a new award to recognize excellence in nursing.

Nurse Jennifer Bordin, an education coordinator at the hospital's Family Birthing Centre, is the first recipient of the Lilly Feraro Award for Nursing Excellence in Family-Centered Care.

Bordin, who's been a nurse at St. Joe's for a year, said when she received the news by email from the nursing practice leader, she had to read it a few times to believe it.

"It made me feel really, really good. I didn't know I'd be nominated because I'm an education coordinator and not a front-line nurse," she said. "It made me feel really good that the work I do is recognized and people appreciate it."

The honour was especially surprising given that Bordin has only been at the hospital for a year.

"I'm a motivated person, but this has made me more motivated to do the work that I do," she said.

Bordin was recognized for her work in implementing the 'Skin-to-Skin' initiative at St. Joe's. It's a program with the aim to educate moms and families on the importance of placing their newborn on their chest as soon as possible after birth. This practice supports successful breast-feeding and also helps to create a bond with their new baby.

"It's a practice that's been done for years and years and years," said Bordin. "In the past, a baby was born, weighed, given medication and brought to the warmer and wrapped up and then given to the mom. Now, with a healthy-term baby, it's place directly on mom's bare chest."

There are several benefits, said Bordin, including a longer breast-feeding term while its breathing and temperature stabilizes more quickly. There are less admissions to the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) as well.

"Mom's chest is the baby's natural habitat," said Bordin.

Bordin has been a nurse for 12 years. The Sault Ste. Marie native came to Toronto in 2000 for a full-time position at Toronto East General Hospital. Mother to a two-and-a-half-year old, she said she absolutely loves nursing.

"Every day I enjoy coming to work. I love working with the people. I'm very proud to be a nurse. I can't imagine doing anything else," said Bordin.

The medical profession is a popular choice in Bordin's family, which counts eight nurses and four doctors.

"No one ever persuaded me to do anything else," she said. "It's a rewarding profession."

Bordin supports the nursing staff on her floor by providing training and orientation. She develops standards of



Nurse lauded for excellence. Jennifer Bordin, education coordinator for St. Joe's Family Birthing Centre (second from right), accepts the Lilly Feraro Award from Trish Crawford, Program Director, Women's, Children's and Family Health, Clint Gunn, Professional Practice Leader for Nursing and Mark Vimr, Executive Vice President, Clinical Programs and Services and Chief Nursing Executive. *Courtesy photo*

care and guidelines, and provides training in neonatal resuscitation and fetal monitoring. Her role as an education coordinator ensures that nurses at St. Joe's are constantly learning and are current and up-to-date with their skills to provide the safest care for patients.

The Lilly Ferraro Award includes a \$1,000 educational grant for the recipient to use for professional development opportunities. Bordin said she will be using the grant to further study the area of bereavement and stillborn deaths and to enhance her knowledge in this specialized care area in the Family Birthing Centre.

Lilly Ferraro has been a nurse at St. Joe's since 1989 and was the recipient of the Toronto Star's Nightingale Award in 2008. The hospital's award in her name recognizes Ferrar's continued commitment and dedication to providing family-centered care to patients and families.

"(Nursing Week) is a really big internal celebration for us," said Michelle Tadique, a communications associate.

This article is for personal use only courtesy of InsideToronto.com - a division of Metroland Media Group Ltd.
