

January 21, 2013

HOME HEALTH AIDE AWARD

The Mississippi Association for Home Care (MAHC) proudly announces **Wilhelmina McLemore** as the recipient of our 2012 Home Health Aide of the Year.

Wilhelmina has dedicated her life since the age of 18 to the care of others. She tends for her patients with dignity, humility and above all, compassion. She empathizes with the needs of her patients and sacrifices herself in their care. Wilhelmina has been in the business of nurturing for 40 years.

In the instance of August 31, 2012 after being told to evacuate her residence due to rising flood waters, drove to safety, spent the night in her car, prepared for work in her church and began her day by 6:30 a.m. She completed her day attending to eleven patients although her families' home of 50 years had experienced three feet of flood waters that destroyed most of her personal belongings. This selflessness of her well being expressed by Kristi Baucum, RN, is a role model for the health care community and is well deserving of this year's award. Wilhelmina is an inspiration in her profession.

In 1992, The Mississippi Association for Home Care established the Caregiver of the Year Award to honor the non-professional family members and friends each year who make it possible for home health agencies to serve so many throughout our state. Since home health service is termed intermittent, the services provided would not be possible without the assistance and tenacity of a legion of caregivers that are most often with the patient 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. The criteria for this award point to the sacrifices made by the caregiver to provide the care, the acquired skills, the quality of care provided and the involvement of the caregiver in the patient home care plan. And most importantly, the spirit in which the care is rendered.

The Mississippi Association for Home Care is a non-profit membership organization dedicated to operating for the benefit of member home health agencies, home health related agencies and the benefit of the public in fostering and maintaining high standards of home health care.

For more information, contact Mary Lea Nations, Executive Director of MAHC at 601-924-2275 or mnations@mahc.org.