

The Heart of M. D. Anderson

Outstanding Employee Award

April 2007

Curtiss Beinhorn
Massage Therapist
Place...of wellness

“Even a massage therapist needs a massage sometimes,” says Curtiss Beinhorn, the Heart of M. D. Anderson Outstanding Employee Award recipient for April. Curtiss, a massage therapist in the Place...of wellness with 14 years of experience, knows it’s much more than a massage to cancer patients—it’s a connection.

“For me, it’s not all about the massage, but a personal connection I make with my patients,” he comments. “Cancer patients have a lot to handle and sometimes they just want to talk.” For Curtiss, an intended massage can actually become an unexpected social visit. On occasion, he has asked his patients about their day or how they’re feeling and it soon turns into a therapeutic conversation for the patient.

“Cancer can be an isolating experience for patients, and putting touch back into a cancer patient’s life makes them feel connected,” explains Curtiss. “The minute you start massaging the patient, you start bringing out the person, and they become more social.” He believes something as basic as human touch can convey reassurance and comfort to the patients at such a crucial time in their lives. Thanks to further education and research regarding massage for cancer patients, safe and effective techniques have been proven to be of great benefit to the patient’s well being. Curtiss can’t think of a more appropriate place for massage therapy than M. D. Anderson.

Excited about his achievement, Curtiss cannot forget about his co-workers. “I recognize the staff for their hard work,” he explains. “Everyday we work as a team, to provide the best possible care for our patients and the significance of this award is a direct reflection of our work.

Curtiss enjoys what he does and has learned it’s about being who you are and being sincere when working with the patients. Married to Marcela Zambra, also a licensed massage therapist, Curtiss enjoys playing music and spending his free time outdoors.

Please join Curtiss at his reception on April 19 at 3:00 p.m. in the Hickey Auditorium Foyer.

From Employee Notes.

Outstanding Employees Are the Heart of M. D. Anderson.

Visit inside.mdanderson.org and click on the photo of the honoree for information on eligibility, how to nominate and reception invitations and coverage.



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