Past Winners of the Woman of the Year Award

2009: Phyllis Cavens, MD
It is our honor and privilege to announce our 2009 Woman of the Year – Dr. Phyllis Cavens. She made phenomenal strides for women in all seasons of their lives, from infancy to adulthood by developing programs that advance their well-being.

Her current and lifetime efforts to the betterment of the lives of children extend to the lives of their mothers. By improving the quality of and access to local care and making resources available to pay for services for children, their mother’s lives and health are also improved. Her mentoring of the many women she works and serves with is well known. Caven's intelligence, drive, integrity and concern have been a model to many women.

She is a shining light that proves that with commitment and love, anything can be accomplished. Congratulations, Dr. Cavens!

2008: Sister Rose Nigro
Sr. Rose Marie Nigro was presented with the 2008 Woman of the Year Award. She has been a long-standing, contributing member of the community. Throughout these years she has worked tirelessly for the poor and underserved of our community. Her leadership and support of community organizations such as the Emergency Support Shelter, Community Health Partners, Community Action Program, Community House on Broadway, Pathways 20/20, and the Free Clinic have all positively impacted service to the poor and vulnerable. She also began the youth mentorship program and the first parish nursing program in the community.

Sister Rose has been retired from PeaceHealth but continues to be an active member of the community in philanthropic health care initiatives, women’s initiatives, service to the community and advancement of women’s health.
2007: Gerrie Booth
A sense of calm that surrounds her and spreads throughout any room that she enters. When she speaks, people pay attention. When she smiles, it’s genuine.

Her commitment to this community has been constant throughout the years. Her support of women’s and children’s issues is a driving force in her life. Her sisters tell me that she treats her nieces and nephews as if they were her own.

When people speak of this year’s recipient they use terms like; soft hearted, kind, a business leader, an example of a successful woman in business, and a mentor to others.

I had the good fortune to work with her on many occasions on ways to make the Women’s Health Pavilion a safe and caring place for women in this community. She has passion for the healthcare of this community and has worked for more than 20 years toward making St. John a viable, up to date, and compassionate hospital.

This past year has been a trying one for her, but she never faltered in her responsibilities. She continued her work with the Pavilion, A Child’s Place, Altrusa, the St. John Foundation and many other deserving charities.

Her strength and fortitude are admirable. Her kindness draws us to her. We are a better community because she is here and better people for knowing her.

2006: Arlene Hubble
Heroes come in many forms; many shapes and sizes and all ages. Our community is blessed to have among us a number of heroes. In past years we have honored such heroes as Kay Sinnett, Jackie Evans, Pat Rodman and Pauline Kirchner. This year we will add another hero to our list, Arleen Hubble. Arleen is a woman of the people. She’s not a woman that is in the forefront. She is a woman who is known by many because of her work behind the scenes with women and community events. To say she is a survivor is an understatement. Some people merely survive others take their experiences and try to change the world for those who will follow us when our time here is done. That is what makes a hero. Being diagnosed with cancer can crush your spirit - but that’s not what happened here. She took her diagnosis and beat it. And then she took her experience and helped others. She knows the difficulties women face from the moment they hear the word cancer. She offers support to ANYONE who is going through cancer. She is at the side of patients when they are making tough decisions, she is at their side when they have surgery, she is at their side when they are going through chemo, she is at their side helping them with their appearance after chemo and surgery. Every waking moment is spent helping others. She is an inspiration to all of us - she is an example of a hero, a woman we are privileged to call our friend.
2005: Pauline Kirchner
A quiet presence, selfless in her giving, humble in her involvement, the best mom ever! A person of high moral integrity and honor. She truly knows the meaning of friendship and devotion to family and friends. She does many things, unknown to others, to help people just because she cares.

Those were just a few of the statements made by the many people who nominated our 2005 Woman of the Year. I have gotten to know her personally over the past 4 years and she is truly an inspiration to all of us.

She lives to help others. She loves to help others. She is driven by her faith, her love of family and friends and her efforts to make a difference in this community and beyond.

Her sister told a story of a young girl who received a new coat from her parents and she wore it to school the next day. After class, her mother asked her what happened to her coat and she replied, “I gave it to a girl who didn’t have one because she was cold.” This wonderful woman knew how to give selflessly to others then and she does so even to this day.

She has impacted many women’s live. Father Joseph who is the Founder of the Human Development Foundation in the Klong Toey Slum of Bangkok told us how she helped a young girl from Thailand escape to the U.S. for safety and education. This young woman is now doing excellent work in St. Louis University in her second year majoring in International Business. She and our award recipient serve as models for others in Bangkok and in the US.

The Women’s Health Pavilion, St. John Medical Center and St. John Foundation are not the only places where she has made a difference. She is active in the Link program, St. Rose, Symphony Auxiliary and Longview Junior Service League, just to name a few.

She believes in women’s health and she has led the Women’s Health Pavillon’s Advisory Council for 5 years. Her strength and passion for this project has made this event possible as she chaired the first event and helped pave the way for those who followed.

2004: Pat Rodman
Pat Rodman was named the 2004 Woman of the Year at the “Red Star Affaire” on December 10, 2004.

Pat Rodman has dedicated her life to making our community a better place to live for all individuals regardless of their situation. The hospital has not been her only focus. She supports the Emergency Support Shelter, Hospice, Red Cross, Community House, Longview Junior Service League, CASA, United Way, CAP and St. Rose School.

Not to mention her tireless efforts with St. John Foundation on the A Child’s Place, Cancer Center, Dialysis Renovation, and her beloved Women’s Health Pavilion.

Pat received many nominations from friends, peers, and family. Her friends describe her as a very special person. One that is filled with kindness, generosity, and an ability to inspire her friends to be a part of a vision to help those in need. Her generosity and effort comes from the heart and will leave a lasting impression and difference on our community.
2003: Jackie Evans
The St. John Medical Center Foundation named Jackie Evans (pictured here on the right) as the 2003 Woman of the Year at their second annual "A Star Affaire" event on December 12th, held to benefit the Sister Margaret Anna Cusack Women's Health Pavilion. Evans received the honor because of her work toward making her community a better place and for her passion for healthcare.

Evans has been involved in every philanthropic activity that has occurred here at PeaceHealth over the past 13 years, including the early 1990's Trauma Program, the mid-1990's "A Child's Place" and Radiation Simulator Campaign, the late 1990's Women's Health Pavilion and Lower Columbia Regional Cancer Center and, most recently, the 2002-2003 Dialysis Renovation and Expansion Project.

Evans' work goes far beyond the hospital, as she is active in many other organizations as well. Programs and projects all over this community bear witness to the generosity and involvement of Evans and her family. Never does she seek and rarely does she accept the accolades that come with another project accomplished and another success achieved.

2002: Kay Sinnett
The first annual event to celebrate the Women’s Health Pavilion could not have been more festive and successful. The highlight of the evening, preceded by an exciting auction of eighteen special packages, was the naming of the first-ever “Woman of the Year.” The anticipation was evident early on and grew steadily as the evening progressed through dinner and the auction.

Finally it was time. PeaceHealth Regional CEO Medrice Coluccio stepped to the microphone and, after a few “hints” as to who the honoree might be, announced the winner.

Family and friends and those “in the know” had done a masterful job of keeping their secret and the successful nominee Kay Sinnett was completely taken by surprise! As unselfish as she is popular, Kay was thinking about another person as she listened to Medrice serve up her “hints.” Hence, the surprise and Kay’s reaction were all the more spontaneous and exhilarating when the “Woman of the Year” was finally announced.

Nominated by good friend and fellow community volunteer Jackie Evans, Kay’s tribute read in part, “Kay uses her exceptional organizational skills and powerful persuasive talent to move people to exceed even their own generosity boundaries in the support of a good cause.” In recognition of Kay’s activities in both Maui and Longview, the tribute stated: “Kay enjoys the same reputation among her Maui friends as she does among her Longview counterparts - if Kay’s involved, and especially if Kay is the chair, the event is going to be a notable success!”

In sum, the final sentence of Kay’s nomination read: “Kay has done so much for her beloved Longview that she richly deserves to be the Spirit of Women’s first recipient of its “Woman of the Year” award.”