



**Congratulations to the  
Class of 2017 - Planetree Scholars**

The Planetree Scholar award honors individuals whose works and deeds have advanced person-centered care while inspiring us all to greater heights



## **Class of 2017 - Planetree Scholars**

Alexandra Cleckner  
Fauquier Health Rehabilitation and  
Nursing Center

Amy Powers  
Fauquier Hospital

Anderson Fannon, RN  
Central Peninsula Hospital

Ardath K. Huffaker, MD  
Sharp Coronado Hospital

Arvella Dickinson  
Carleton Manor

Austin Oswald  
New York Presbyterian/Westchester  
Division

Bertha Desir  
Jewish Eldercare Centre

Bill Witherspoon  
Sky Factory, Inc.

Britt Warner  
Longmont United Hospital

Candice Murphy  
Columbia Memorial Hospital

James Dwyer, MD  
Northern Westchester Hospital

Judy Sitton  
Enloe Medical Center

Kathleen Stedman  
Dignity Health - Mercy San Juan Medical  
Center

Kenda Spaulding  
Grand River Health, E. Dene Moore Care  
Center

Kim Weippert  
Donald Berman Maimonides

Kristina Lacy, MD  
Central Peninsula Hospital

Laura Conley  
HVVMG  
Leilani Swan  
North Valley Hospital

Linda Moreno  
Forest Hills of DC

Marie-Claude Poulin  
Ciuss de L'estrie Chus

Chantel Williams  
St. Anthony North Health Campus

Dike Miller RN  
Griffin Hospital

Donna Smeltzer  
Bayhealth-Kent Campus

Dorothy Cafran  
Northern Westchester Hospital

Dr George Stathopoulos  
Elmhurst Hospital  
Dr. Antoinette Costa  
VA New Jersey Health Care System

Dr. Muhammad R. Syed  
Bayhealth-Milford Campus

Dr. Sanjeev Patel  
Bayhealth-Kent Campus

Dr. Sharry Veres  
St. Anthony North Health Campus

Frank Quadrino  
VA New Jersey Health Care System

Gene Abbott  
Platte Valley Medical Center

Gina Maurer  
Northport VA Medical Center

Gloria Capaz  
Jewish Eldercare Centre

Guendalina Graffigna, PhD  
Universita' Cattolica del Sacro Cuore

Mary Pancheri  
Longmont United Hospital

Michael Lewis, MD  
Columbia Memorial Hospital

Pearlette Peters  
Donald Berman Maimonides

Rebekah Abate  
The Villa at Suffield Meadows

Richelle Rapaport  
Northport VA Medical Center

Roman Spivak MD  
Griffin Hospital

Rosalva Vasquez  
Platte Valley Medical Center

Susan Reinhard  
AARP

Taya Wallis  
Sharp Memorial Hospital

Tiffani McKenna  
Elmhurst Hospital

Tina Gallant  
Loch Lomond Villa

Upasana Arora  
Yashoda Super Specialty Hospitals

Victoria Risovanny  
Sharp Coronado Hospital

Wesley R. Hodgson MD  
Fauquier Hospital

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**2017 Planetree Valedictorian**  
**Gina Maurer**  
Northport VA Medical Center



## About Gina

Gina Maurer has worked at Northport for 37 years in a variety of clinical capacities. She started as a phlebotomist, working up the ranks in laboratory, serving as the service IT expert, then a health system specialist for medical service, and now for the last 7 years, she has been our Patient Centered Care Coordinator. She is passionate about "keeping the Veterans at the center of all we do," She is tireless in this perspective, she is tenacious and forthright. She has tackled projects that seem impossible and is frequently tasked by our Director/CEO to fix processes and spaces. She is very process oriented, and after brief explanations, she gets right down to it. She is always at the ready, to explain to anyone, what it means to be person centered. She advocates for privacy, clear education materials, healing waiting spaces, etc. She does not give up!

### A few of Gina's Accomplishments

- Gina championed and directed the first Wi-Fi capacity for patient care spaces, including the revision of equipment to accommodate patients with ALS. (enabling them to "go on Facebook")

- She reviewed and published many handbooks, brochures educational materials, consistently with the patient and resident in mind. (color, size of font, readability)
- She served as project manager for one of the biggest environmental makeovers at our facility: renovation of 11 room suite in Pulmonary, previously having no waiting room, and only 500 sq ft/2000 sq ft used exclusively for patient care spaces.
- Gina headed up the work group to modernize and consolidate medical/surgical units.
- She wrote for and received mini grants from the Office of Patient Centered Care and Cultural Transformation for : use of restaurant pagers in hearing aid repair clinic.
- She designed the template for the Planetree/PCC newsletter, and serves as final editor for this monthly publication.
- She assisted, championed and implemented use of electronic Beneficiary Travel Requests for veterans, via kiosks.
- She is passionate about wayfinding initiatives, including the installation of elevator directories, update of centralized directories, and establishment of the first electronic phone book for staff use. She initiated and serves as co-chair of the PFAC, setting up all the reference materials, and agenda.
- She put together the Planetree pallet of paint colors, selected all of the art for patient care, instructing others to "see what the patient sees." She is the closest to an interior designer that we have.