

**Rural Health Champion Award Nominee 2016**  
**Paulette Powelson, RN - Pike County Memorial Hospital**

I would like to nominate Paulette Powelson for the Rural Health Champion Award. Paulette is involved in many aspects of our hospital organization as well as the local community and Pike County.

Within our organization, she serves as manager for the Quality Improvement, Risk, Infection Prevention, and Community Outreach Programs. She works closely with our physicians to ensure we stay current with National Institute of Health (NIH), World Health Organization (WHO) and other agencies that develop and recommend best practices for patient care. Paulette also organizes the community flu vaccine program where she works closely with the public health department to ensure our community has access to the vaccines. Paulette has provided many educational outreach programs to various organizations such as the Louisiana Ministerial Alliance and Chamber of Commerce. Information provided included the services we offer as well as education on our fall prevention, stroke, and other topics of concern.

Paulette is also extensively involved in community organizations and projects including:

Pike Community Care Partnership –representing PCMH with multiple businesses, organizations to improve, support, and foster services across the county. As part of this partnership, Paulette represents PCMH on the “Back to School Program” which this year purchased and provided 700 backpacks filled with school supplies for children ages kindergarten through high school. This event provided supplies that under-privileged students may otherwise have not had access. In addition to supplies, many services such as haircuts, nail care, dental, vision, and hearing screenings were offered.

Twin Pike YMCA Healthy Kids Expo: This is a co-sponsored event by PCMH and the local YMCA to promote healthy activities for children as well as safety and accident prevention information. Through the event this year, 250 bike helmets were provided to local children.

Mental Health Coalition (Healthy Minds/Healthy Lives): Paulette represents PCMH on this coalition whose function is to support and improve mental health services throughout the county as well as to provide mental health first aid training and reduce the stigma of mental illness.

Community Betterment: This is a program that falls under the Louisiana Chamber of Commerce. This committee under Paulette’s direction received the 2015 Missouri Community Betterment Award.

Communication Task Force; As a member of the local task force, Paulette has provided input & assistance on ensuring communications during times of emergencies and/or disaster management are maintained.

Neighborhood watch; Paulette and her husband, Tom, hosted 2016 “National Night Out” for their neighborhood which foster neighborhood involvement in preventing crime and improving safety awareness.

Paulette has been involved in these various endeavors for many years and is one who ‘never says no’ to helping improve the health of our community. Paulette is a dedicated professional who cares about the community in which she lives and serves. She gives freely of her time and talent. I truly believe that she is Pike County’s “Rural Health Champion” and is very deserving of this award