

Linda Pape, MSN, RN - The 2007 HMA Wilkerson-Droege Award Recipient...

The term ministry defines Linda Pape. Linda was extremely instrumental in establishing, promoting and supporting Health Ministry in the greater Central Ohio area for more than 15 years. Work in ministry was not new to Linda when she became a member of the Church Partnerships Department at Riverside Methodist Hospital in 1992 in Columbus Ohio. She came to that role with a previous background as a medical missionary in Africa and years of dedicated service to her own faith community.

Linda's love of ministry and her passion for the work of her Faith Community Nurses and in turn their Health Ministry programs made her the perfect advocate for all who were interested in the faith-health movement. Beyond her work in the Central Ohio area, Linda touched many who sought her advice in beginning the ministry in other areas of Ohio, Kentucky and West Virginia. She served as a warm and caring mentor and lecturer for many other hospitals and program coordinators in the beginning phases of their programs. Linda was always willing to share her ideas, resources and passion for health ministry.

As interest in the Faith-Health Movement grew throughout Ohio and neighboring states, Linda was often the first person to step-up for a role in any collaborative educational offerings. Her participation and leadership was pivotal in the highly-successful Ohio-wide Health Ministry conferences in 1997 and 1999, the multi-chapter conference in Kentucky 2004 and one on the new FCN Scope & Standards of Practice in 2005.

Linda also served the HMA in many ways over the years. As a dedicated member she encouraged people to join HMA, utilize their resources and promoted attendance at the annual conferences. Her allegiance to HMA has remained unwavering through the years, as she gave of her time and talent. In 1995 she personally handled the HMA annual conference continuing education process. She also served as Exhibitor Chair on the 2001 Conference planning team and later that year facilitated the launch of the Central Ohio Chapter. Linda also served on the Board of Directors as Chair of the Coordinator's Network for over 3 years.

Linda semi-retired from her Coordinator's position in the late fall of '05. She continued to work in the office part time for another few months, fully retiring in late '06. She still keeps in touch with her nurses, who miss her very much and is active in the Central Ohio Coordinators Group. Today she serves many people through her ministries in her faith community and as a caregiver to those in need.