

NEWS RELEASE

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Left to right: Lynne Fruth, President of Fruth Pharmacy presents Rebecca Church, Red Vest Award Winner with plaque. Teresa Stapleton, Human Resources Manager, Kathy Searls and Debra Shelton, Red Vest Winners, await their turn at podium.

Fruth Pharmacy holds 26th Annual Service Awards Special New Award Presented

Point Pleasant, W.Va. (November 10, 2016) – Fruth Pharmacy held its Annual Service Awards on Thursday, October 27th at the Trinity Christian Community Center in Point Pleasant.

This year marked 26 years that Fruth has been celebrating employees' accomplishments and years of service to the company.

A special luncheon catered by Above and Beyond Catering was provided to this year's award recipients.

Awards are given each year in the following categories: Manager of The Year, Pharmacist of the Year, Pharmacy Technician of the Year, and Associate of the Year. Employees are also awarded for their years

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of service to Fruth in increments of 5 years. This year, employees were honored up to 40 years of service.

Nominees are submitted to Fruth Pharmacy by the employee's superiors, co-workers, customers, and community members. Customers and community members are encouraged to nominate and vote through an online process. Out of nearly 700 employees, only 12 are chosen for special honors. Being a nominee is an extreme honor.

This year, a new award was established: The Red Vest Award. The Red Vest Award was given to 3 recipients this year. This award was established to honor and recognize employees that go above and beyond to help save a Fruth customer's life. Employees who have performed life-saving measures and who are nominated through an extensive process will be receiving the Red Vest Award.

This award will be publicly displayed on the recipient. Staff will be awarded with an actual red vest and a lapel pin with the vest symbol. Employees will also receive a certificate for display, as well as have their name placed on a group award at the corporate office under the "Red Vest Club".

Corporate personnel wanted the award to be a visual award, so Fruth employees, customers, and patients will easily be able to identify an employee that has assisted in a patient's health and well being.

Stores in both Athens and Pomeroy, Ohio have employees that have qualified this year for this new, special recognition.

When Rebecca Church, an employee at Fruth Pharmacy in Athens, stooped to pick up a customer's keys – she had no idea she soon would be calling emergency personnel.

Church noticed something was not right with the customer. She asked him to sit down on a bench to talk with her. He dropped his keys about 10 times. Eventually, she was able to get the keys out of his reach. As she continued to talk to him, his speech became unintelligible. She quickly called for an ambulance.

The emergency squad arrived and EMTs strongly urged the patient to go to the hospital. Later that evening, Fruth Pharmacy received a call from the patient's wife letting the employees know he had been life-flighted to Columbus. He had been suffering from a massive stroke. The wife had called to thank the person who had helped to save her husband's life.

Kathy Searls, pharmacy cashier and delivery person, for Fruth Pharmacy in Pomeroy, had difficulty getting an answer from a regular customer. Normally, the customer was waiting on Kathy to deliver her order. Kathy observed there were several days' mail in the mailbox and that the television was playing inside. Kathy banged on the door, walked around the house, and called out several times. There was no response. Kathy returned to the store, worried. She told a fellow employee, Debra Shelton, about the unusual circumstances. Debra, a pharmacy technician, happened to know the customer's hairdresser and contacted her. The hairdresser was able to contact the customer's landlord, who then called police. When police entered the unit, the customer was laying in the bathtub. She had been there for almost 3 days! She heard Kathy knocking but had been too weak to call out for help. The customer was very grateful that Kathy and Debra had shown concern and tried to contact her through additional means.

“We are hearing more and more stories like this from our employees,” Teresa Stapleton, Human Resources Manager for Fruth Pharmacy shared. “Employees who earn this award exemplify Mr. Fruth’s legacy of giving back to the community. This is what sets Fruth apart from our competitors.”

“Heroes,” Lynne Fruth, President of Fruth Pharmacy began as she spoke of this year’s Awards Luncheon theme, “we are starting out this year’s awards with a very special tribute to people that define the word hero. A hero isn’t someone who does what is easy. A hero isn’t someone who does what is best. A hero is someone that steps up, recognizes a challenge or a circumstance, and without thinking of self courageously acts for the benefits of others. We have 3 ladies in our midst that did just that this past year.”

Fruth went on to present the Red Vest Awards to Rebecca Church of Athens, Ohio and Kathy Searls and Debra Shelton of Pomeroy, Ohio. Patient Evelyn Young of Middleport, Ohio came to the luncheon to thank Searls and Shelton in person for saving her life. Young had lain in her bathtub for 3 days, before Searls and Shelton discovered she needed help.

WCHSTV, Fox, and WOWKTV came out to interview the Red Vest Recipients.

Other awards during the ceremony are as follows:

Nominees for Manager of the Year include: Rick Chapman of Huntington, WV, Missy Cooper of Athens, OH, and Julye Knox of Spencer, WV. Knox was named Manager of the Year for 2016.

Nominees for Pharmacist of the Year include: Lindsay Crowley of Scott Depot, WV, Peggy Knight of Point Pleasant, WV, and Beth Morgan of Nelsonville, OH. Knight was named Pharmacist of the Year for 2016.

Nominees for Pharmacy Technician of the Year include: Latisha Finan of Nelsonville, OH, Tiffany Miller of Scott Depot, WV, and Kim Phelps of Hurricane, WV. Phelps was named Pharmacy Technician of the Year for 2016.

Nominees for Associate of the Year include: Kiersten Knicley of Spencer, WV, Thasleem Maraikayer of Charleston, WV, and Jordan Rife of Gallipolis, OH. Rife was named Associate of the Year for 2016.

About Fruth Pharmacy:

Fruth Pharmacy is a family owned pharmacy with 29 locations in West Virginia, Ohio, and Kentucky. To learn more about Fruth Pharmacy, please visit www.fruthpharmacy.com.