

by Connie Roller

It takes a very special person to go into the homes of complete strangers and care for their personal needs. But those who are in the home health profession are quick to tell you how rewarding it is. [Oxford HealthCare](#) actively seeks out these special people when staffing its health care team. And they are fortunate to have many such employees, one of whom was recently named Outstanding Aide by the Missouri Council for In-Home Services.

Michelle Blank, field coordinator for Oxford HealthCare, recently received the prestigious award during a ceremony at Tan-Tar-A Resort in Osage Beach. The award is given to someone whose commitment to home health care goes above and beyond the call of duty. Blank's supervisor, Sherlyn Hume, submitted the nomination, which was read at the event. "Michelle has an enormous capacity to care for those who need it most," Hume wrote. "She is such a dedicated and positive person. She's the one we turn to when other employees are unable to make the visit. Yet she is also able to balance her work life with her responsibilities as a wife and mother."

Says Susan Anderson, Oxford's executive director of in-home services: "Michelle was nominated because of her compassion, discipline and commitment. She is assigned to care for special clients including quadriplegics and paraplegics. Their needs are something she attends to without hesitation. This is not simply a job for her, it has become a career."

Buddy Meriwether, one of the clients Blank cares for, describes what a wonderful person she is. "She is my angel. She has a good

heart. Every morning when she comes, she makes me smile. I love her a lot."

Blank believes going to work for Oxford was the best choice she could have made. "I love my job," Blank says. "The hardest part is seeing someone with a disability who cannot help himself. I try to comfort them and do what I can to make their day. I try to put myself in their shoes and ask how I would feel in the same situation.

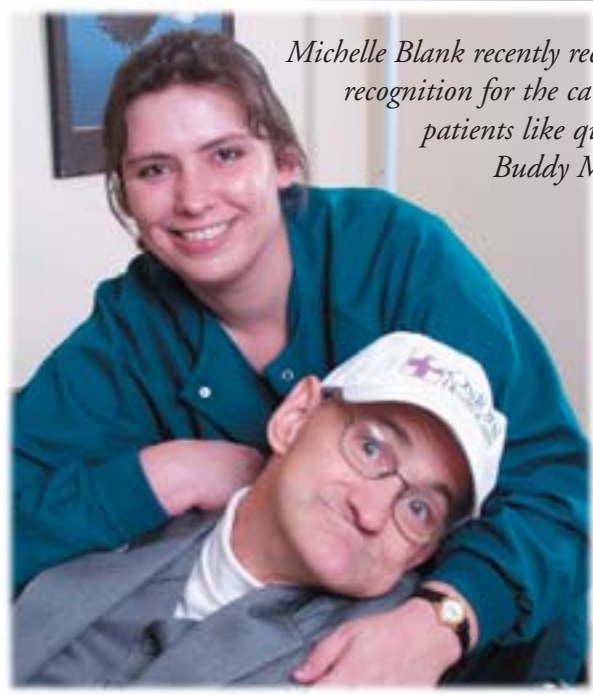
"You go home feeling good that you have helped someone," Blank adds. "Seeing the smiles on their faces, helping them stay in their homes ... that is why I do it. It's the best job I've ever had." ❖

Thanks Michelle, we couldn't agree more. We commend you for your commitment to Oxford and the clients we serve.

Connie Roller is a freelance writer for HealthSense magazine.

Oxford in-home aid receives

state recognition



Michelle Blank recently received state recognition for the care she gives patients like quadriplegic Buddy Meriwether.

A NEW LOCATION

by Nancy Waring

For nearly 15 years The Women's Center of Cox Health Systems has been a proactive voice for women. We are here for you with education, information and support as you respond to life's challenges. And now we offer these services from a new location in the Cox Medical Arts Center, Suite 110.

In addition to maternity education and consultation, The [Osteoporosis Clinic](#) and the Joyce Schwandt Library, our new easy-to-find location has a patient-friendly atmosphere and provides quick access to the [Convenient Care Pharmacy](#). (The Women's Center Breast Care Clinic remains in Cox Medical Plaza II offering screening and diagnostic services.)

scans have been performed at The Osteoporosis Clinic. And soon we will purchase a new state-of-the-art bone densitometer, made possible through the generosity of the Cox Health Systems [Auxiliary](#).

The yearly traditions at The Women's Center include the Special Delivery Baby Affair and the Pickles and Ice Cream

Luncheon. In October we put a special focus on breast cancer and breast cancer awareness with the annual Pink Ribbon Rally, the Pink

Ribbon Luncheon and the Ozarks Women's Links Golf Tournament.

Although our location has changed, our commitment to being a health resource for women and their families has not changed. We will continue to provide community programs, a physician referral service, a comprehensive resource library and nurses to discuss issues and concerns. For more information about services or upcoming events at [The Women's Center](#), please call 886-LADY. ❖

Nancy Waring is manager of The Women's Center of Cox Health Systems.

for The Women's Center

Among the services provided by The Women's Center is the Special Delivery maternity program. This program is designed to meet the needs of the entire expectant family with everything from prepared childbirth classes, preconception classes and breastfeeding classes to sibling and grand-parenting classes.

Also located in The Women's Center is our Osteoporosis Clinic. Opened in 1996, The Osteoporosis Clinic provides individualized risk assessments, diagnosis of osteoporosis with dual-energy bone densitometry, interpretation by a physician certified in bone density testing and individualized education by a registered nurse. Since its inception, more than 7,000

Shirley Rader, The Women's Center, helps a patient find health information on the Web. Internet access is one of many services offered by this Cox program.

