



HOUSTON HOSPICE  
*Life Matters*

*Media Contact:* Media Relations  
*Telephone:* 713-677-7118 (not for publication)  
*Email:* [media@houstonhospice.org](mailto:media@houstonhospice.org)  
*Website:* [www.houstonhospice.org](http://www.houstonhospice.org)  
*Twitter:* [@HouHospice](https://twitter.com/HouHospice)  
*Facebook:* <https://www.facebook.com/houhospicelifematters/>

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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### Good Samaritan Foundation Recognizes Hospice Nurses

Three Houston Hospice nurses, Sarah Booth, Margaret Kessler, and Bridget Turner received the prestigious Good Samaritan Foundation Excellence in Nursing Award at a luncheon ceremony on September 5, 2018 at the Royal Sonesta Houston Galleria Hotel. The event was chaired by Lorraine Fraizer, Ph.D., RN, FAAN, FAHA, John P. McGovern Distinguished Professor and Dean, UT Health Cizik School of Nursing.

Through the Excellence in Nursing Awards, Good Samaritan Foundation encourages others to celebrate and recognize individual nurses who excel in their chosen fields. Nurses are nominated by their peers for their passion, leadership, mentorship, and service to the Houston community. All nominations were reviewed and scored by a distinguished selection committee chaired by David Marshall, JD, DNP, RN, CENP, NEA-BC Chief Nursing and Patient Care Services Officer, UTMB Galveston, and comprised of many clinical leaders in the Texas Medical Center.

The three Houston Hospice recipients have more than 100 years of combined nursing and health care-related experience:

- **Sarah Booth**, a resident of Manvel, began her nursing career in 1972. She joined Houston Hospice in 2003 after working for a family physician and in IMCU for 18 years. Care her father received while in hospice inspired her to become a hospice nurse. Booth finds the blessings she receives from patients and families as a rewarding part of her work.
- **Marjorie Kessler**, a resident of Katy, is currently an on-call nurse and has been a quality assurance manager, legal nurse consultant, nurse researcher, and head nurse among many professional experiences. She has been with Houston Hospice since 2010. Kessler began pursuing her nursing education in 1971.
- **Bridget Turner**, a resident of Summerwood in North Houston, has been at Houston Hospice for four years and a nurse for 17, working in various clinical settings, ranging from Med surge to oncology. Turner feels fortunate to be a nurse in hospice and considers what she does to be a “life-long ministry.” One of her goals is to eventually become a chaplain.



“Sarah, Marjorie and Bridget all go the extra mile for families and patients in our care,” said Houston Hospice Vice President of Patient Services Jayne O’Brien. “They embody everything the Excellence in Nursing Awards represent and we are very proud of their much-deserved recognition which is a testament to all they do to meet the needs of our patients at Houston Hospice and the communities we serve.”



The Purpose of the Good Samaritan Foundation Excellence in Nursing Awards is to recognize nurses who are leaders at the bedside, offering extraordinary and compassionate care and service. While degrees, certifications and research exhibit great dedication on the candidate’s part for developing professionally, the Foundation’s priority of focus is on the nominees’ stories of the work they do every day servicing patients, families, employees and students.

#### About Houston Hospice:

Founded in 1980, Houston Hospice is a member of the Texas Medical Center and is the only provider of nonprofit hospice care to Houston and 10 surrounding counties. Teams of specialist doctors, nurses, social workers, chaplains, counselors and trained volunteers provide physical, emotional and spiritual support to patients and families, irrespective of their ethnicity or beliefs. To learn more about Houston Hospice, visit [www.houstonhospice.org](http://www.houstonhospice.org) or call 713-467-7423.

#### About the Good Samaritan Foundation:

In 1951, Reverend Clyde J. Verheyden, founded what is now known as Good Samaritan Foundation. Since its inception, Good Samaritan Foundation has been focused on one ongoing mission: to increase the number of highly-trained and dedicated nurses “at the bedside” of Texas patients. Building a stronger nurse workforce in Texas consists of attracting men and women to the nursing profession and providing financial resources to become the best educated and most skilled caregivers in the world.

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