

## SASHA BELLA AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN FAMILY-CENTRED CARE



### BACKGROUND

This award is a tribute to Sasha Bella Stein-Blumberg, a sweet, loving and determined little girl born with Alagille Syndrome on June 6, 2004. It is offered in thanks to the Cardiac Program at SickKids, now the Labatt Family Heart Centre. This team tirelessly coordinated care across services during multiple catheterizations and two cardiac surgeries and who showed great sensitivity to Sasha and her family's needs. Sasha lived with gusto until severe GI bleeds from portal hypertension after her second surgery at 18 months of age left her dependent on blood transfusions and a jejunal fistula left her dependent on TPN. Sasha and her parents lived on 4D and 6A for almost four months after her 5 weeks in CCCU and returned home supported by the Temmy Latner Centre and TCCAC on May 17, 2006. Sasha's physical presence left us June 20, 2006.

### NOMINATION GUIDELINES

An award of \$1000 will be presented annually to a Labatt Family Heart Centre nurse in recognition of their exemplary nursing practice and excellence in Family – Centred Care. The nominee should have cared for a child and family whose hospital course involved multi – organ, palliative care or multi – service challenges.

Any staff member may nominate a Labatt Family Heart Centre nurse by providing a brief letter outlining the suitability of the nominee.

The nomination should consider the following attributes in combination or separately:

1. *Clinical excellence* – nursing practice that demonstrates above average knowledge, skill and judgment in alleviating the impact of illness on the child and family or supporting the child and family during end-of-life care. This includes facilitating family involvement in decision-making and direct care, assessments of family needs or stressors, identification of appropriate resources, culturally sensitive care, sensitivity to family communication, devising strategies to enhance family coping, and when needed, early integration of Palliative Care.
2. *Teaching/Educational skills* – this may include areas of parent/child/professional education, the preceptor role, or participation in professional development activities relating to Family-Centred Care.
3. *Leadership skills* - demonstrates leadership qualities within defined positions (e.g preceptor, Clinical Support, bedside nurse)
4. *Professional accomplishments* - commitment to inter-professional Family Centred Care projects within the Labatt Family Heart Centre. This may include assessment and implementation of quality improvement initiatives, involvement in research projects, or publications that impact care delivery
5. *Nursing experience* - at least two years. Completed Nursing Professional Development System

## **COMMITTEE and SELECTION PROCESS**

A voluntary selection committee will be comprised of:

1. A nurse from 4D
2. A nurse from CCCU
3. A nurse practitioner or program manager
4. A nurse educator
5. A cardiologist
6. An inter-professional staff member (eg. child life, dietician, social work or non cardiac program staff)
7. A member of Sasha's family or a parent requested by Sasha's family

Members of the committee can serve up to three consecutive years and will initially be volunteers who cared for Sasha. Selection of the award winner requires a minimum quorum of four committee members. Committee members are not eligible for the award.

## **NOTIFICATION OF CANDIDATES**

Successful candidates will be notified prior to Nursing Week and the award will be presented during Nursing Week celebrations.

## **DEADLINES FOR NOMINATION**

Date: April 10th, 2007

## **SUBMITTED TO**

4D or CCCU Program Manager  
Labatt Family Heart Centre